

North Carolina Structural Pest Control Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. Silverfish tend to accumulate around which of the following?**
 - A. Wooden furniture**
 - B. Wet linens**
 - C. Food materials**
 - D. Plastic containers**
- 2. What is the recommended air pressure for a crack and crevice treatment with a compressed air sprayer?**
 - A. 1-2 PSI**
 - B. 3-5 PSI**
 - C. 10-15 PSI**
 - D. 20-25 PSI**
- 3. What type of formulation is most effective for void treatment?**
 - A. Liquid sprays**
 - B. Granular formulations**
 - C. Dust formulations**
 - D. Gel baits**
- 4. What do Argentine ants primarily search for?**
 - A. Protein**
 - B. Sweets**
 - C. Fats**
 - D. Water**
- 5. How many pairs of legs do insects have?**
 - A. Two pairs**
 - B. Three pairs**
 - C. Four pairs**
 - D. Five pairs**

- 6. What is the smallest opening a rat can pass through?**
- A. 1/4 inch**
 - B. 1/2 inch**
 - C. 3/4 inch**
 - D. 1 inch**
- 7. How long are house mouse droppings generally?**
- A. 1/16 to 1/8 inch**
 - B. 1/8 to 1/4 inch**
 - C. 1/4 to 1/2 inch**
 - D. 1/2 to 3/4 inch**
- 8. What physical feature distinguishes an Argentine ant?**
- A. It has a triangular or heart-shaped head**
 - B. It is reddish to dark brown in color**
 - C. It is more than one inch long**
 - D. It has no nodes**
- 9. What is the risk involved when using a bellow duster?**
- A. Over-application leading to waste**
 - B. Inhalation of dust particles**
 - C. Spillage of liquid formulations**
 - D. Damage to surrounding vegetation**
- 10. What characteristics distinguish a roof rat from a Norway rat?**
- A. Slender body, blunt ears, large nose**
 - B. Painted nose, large ears, slender body**
 - C. Blunt nose, small ears, heavy body**
 - D. Flat body, small nose, large ears**

Answers

SAMPLE

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. B
6. B
7. B
8. A
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. Silverfish tend to accumulate around which of the following?

- A. Wooden furniture**
- B. Wet linens**
- C. Food materials**
- D. Plastic containers**

Silverfish are primarily attracted to food materials, particularly those that contain starch or carbohydrates. They are known to feed on various organic materials like paper, glue, and certain types of food, making them prevalent in homes where they can find such resources. This feeding behavior is a key reason why they are often encountered in kitchens, pantries, and areas where unsealed food products are stored. While silverfish may occasionally inhabit spaces with wooden furniture, wet linens, or plastic containers, these environments do not provide them with the necessary food sources they seek. Wet linens may serve as a habitat in terms of humidity, but without food, silverfish are less likely to stay. Similarly, while plastic containers can house other pests, they do not provide food sources that silverfish require for survival. Therefore, the correct association with silverfish is their accumulation around food materials, which ensures they have access to the nutrition they depend on.

2. What is the recommended air pressure for a crack and crevice treatment with a compressed air sprayer?

- A. 1-2 PSI**
- B. 3-5 PSI**
- C. 10-15 PSI**
- D. 20-25 PSI**

The recommended air pressure for a crack and crevice treatment with a compressed air sprayer is generally set at 3-5 PSI. This pressure range is optimal for ensuring that the pesticide formulation is delivered effectively into the cracks, crevices, and narrow spaces where pests may hide. At this pressure, the application can achieve a good balance between proper coverage and minimizing the risk of drift or oversaturation, which could lead to unwanted exposure or reduce the efficacy of the treatment. Using a pressure that is too high could cause the pesticide to disperse too widely, resulting in areas that are either over-treated or under-treated, which can lead to ineffective pest control. Maintaining the air pressure within the 3-5 PSI range allows the applicator to control the flow of the pesticide more accurately, ensuring that it penetrates the targeted areas where pests are more likely to be found. This methodical approach increases the likelihood of achieving successful pest management while adhering to safety standards.

3. What type of formulation is most effective for void treatment?

- A. Liquid sprays**
- B. Granular formulations**
- C. Dust formulations**
- D. Gel baits**

Dust formulations are particularly effective for void treatment because they can penetrate into cracks, crevices, and other hard-to-reach areas where pests often hide or nest. The dry particles of dust can adhere to surfaces and remain effective for extended periods, allowing them to control pest populations within voids and inaccessible spaces. Once introduced into these areas, the dust can be disturbed by pest movement, which helps in the transfer of the active ingredients to the pests themselves. In contrast, liquid sprays may not adequately reach deep into voids, as they often run off or do not provide long-lasting effects in hidden areas. Granular formulations are generally used for treating soil or outdoor settings and are not as effective in enclosed spaces. Gel baits are useful for attracting certain pests, particularly ants and cockroaches, but they might not effectively address larger infestations within voids where the pests may not easily access the bait. This makes dust formulations the most suitable choice for targeting pests in voids effectively.

4. What do Argentine ants primarily search for?

- A. Protein**
- B. Sweets**
- C. Fats**
- D. Water**

Argentine ants primarily search for sweets, which include sugary substances and carbohydrates. These ants are drawn to sugary foods because they have a high energy requirement for their activities, including foraging and reproduction. Sweets provide a quick and accessible source of energy that sustains their colony. While Argentine ants do also require protein, fats, and water for their survival, their foraging behavior is primarily motivated by the search for sugary foods. This preference helps explain why they are often found in places where food is exposed, such as kitchens and picnics, where sugar-rich foods are readily available. Understanding this preference is crucial for effective pest management strategies aimed at controlling Argentine ant populations.

5. How many pairs of legs do insects have?

- A. Two pairs**
- B. Three pairs**
- C. Four pairs**
- D. Five pairs**

Insects are classified within the class Insecta, which is characterized by having a distinct body plan that includes three main segments: the head, thorax, and abdomen. A key feature of insects is that they typically possess three pairs of legs, with each pair attached to the thorax. This anatomical structure is fundamental to their classification as hexapods, meaning "six-footed." The three pairs of legs enable insects to demonstrate a range of locomotor adaptations, which can include walking, jumping, or swimming, depending on their ecological niche. This distinctive feature sets insects apart from other arthropods with differing numbers of leg pairs, such as spiders, which belong to the class Arachnida and have four pairs of legs. Thus, the correct answer to the question is that insects have three pairs of legs, reinforcing the defining characteristics of their class.

6. What is the smallest opening a rat can pass through?

- A. 1/4 inch**
- B. 1/2 inch**
- C. 3/4 inch**
- D. 1 inch**

Rats are remarkably agile and capable of squeezing through surprisingly small openings. The smallest opening that a rat can typically pass through is about 1/2 inch in diameter. This ability is due to the flexibility of their bodies and the structure of their skulls, which allows them to compress their bodies to fit through tight spaces. Understanding this measurement is crucial for pest control, as it helps in identifying potential entry points in structures. It emphasizes the importance of inspecting and securing areas where pests may gain access, particularly in homes and commercial buildings. This knowledge allows for more effective pest prevention strategies, helping to mitigate infestations before they become significant problems.

7. How long are house mouse droppings generally?

- A. 1/16 to 1/8 inch
- B. 1/8 to 1/4 inch**
- C. 1/4 to 1/2 inch
- D. 1/2 to 3/4 inch

House mouse droppings are typically about 1/8 to 1/4 inch in length. This size range is characteristic of the droppings produced by house mice, which are small and cylindrical with pointed ends. Recognizing the size and shape of these droppings is essential for pest control professionals, as they can serve as an important indicator of mouse activity within an area. In addition to size, the coloration and texture of the droppings can also provide clues about the presence of mice. Fresh droppings tend to be dark and shiny, while older droppings may become dry and lose their luster. Understanding these details helps in making informed decisions regarding pest management strategies. The other options reflect incorrect size ranges; for example, droppings larger than 1/4 inch would likely belong to other rodent species, such as rats, which have distinctly larger droppings. Recognizing the specific characteristics of house mouse droppings plays a vital role in accurately identifying the type of pest and implementing appropriate control measures.

8. What physical feature distinguishes an Argentine ant?

- A. It has a triangular or heart-shaped head**
- B. It is reddish to dark brown in color
- C. It is more than one inch long
- D. It has no nodes

The physical feature that accurately distinguishes an Argentine ant is that it has no nodes. Argentine ants are characterized by their smooth, unsegmented appearance between their thorax and abdomen, lacking the distinct bumps or nodes seen in other ant species. This feature is an important identification marker, setting them apart from ants that have distinct nodes that can often help in differentiating between various species. For context, the other options describe features that are not characteristic of Argentine ants. For example, while some ants may have a heart-shaped head or might exhibit reddish or dark brown coloration, Argentine ants typically display a uniform light to dark brown coloration without a prominent color variation. Furthermore, these ants are usually less than half an inch long, which makes the reference to greater than one inch incorrect. By focusing on the absence of nodes, you can easily identify Argentine ants and differentiate them from other ant species.

9. What is the risk involved when using a bellow duster?

- A. Over-application leading to waste**
- B. Inhalation of dust particles**
- C. Spillage of liquid formulations**
- D. Damage to surrounding vegetation**

The use of a bellow duster presents a particular risk regarding the inhalation of dust particles. Bellow dusters are designed to distribute dry pesticide formulations in a controlled manner. However, the mechanism involves creating a flow of air that can easily aerosolize the dust particles, leading to the potential for inhalation by the applicator or nearby individuals. This risk is significant, especially if the dust being applied contains harmful substances or allergens, as it can cause respiratory issues or exacerbate existing conditions. The implications of inhaling pesticide dust highlight the importance of wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when using such equipment. Ensuring proper ventilation and following safety guidelines can mitigate this risk, reinforcing safe application methods in pest control practices.

10. What characteristics distinguish a roof rat from a Norway rat?

- A. Slender body, blunt ears, large nose**
- B. Painted nose, large ears, slender body**
- C. Blunt nose, small ears, heavy body**
- D. Flat body, small nose, large ears**

The correct answer highlights the specific physical characteristics that define a roof rat, distinguishing it from a Norway rat. Roof rats typically possess a slender body structure, which is more streamlined compared to the stockier build of Norway rats. They are also known for their large ears, which are proportionately bigger than those of Norway rats, further aiding in their identification. Additionally, roof rats have a pointed or "painted" nose, which contrasts with the broader, blunter snouts of Norway rats. Understanding these distinctions is crucial in pest control as it helps professionals accurately identify the type of infestation they are dealing with, allowing for more effective control strategies. Recognizing these characteristics ensures that the right methods and treatments can be implemented for the specific species, ultimately improving pest management outcomes.