



SAFETY MESSAGE



Personal Safety is our #1 priority

Pesky Critters, Compiled by USDA-APHIS-CCEP

<p><u>Ticks:</u></p> <p>Safety Tips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuck pant legs into your socks and your shirt into your pants. • Wear closed shoes and light colored clothing to spot ticks easily. • Inspect clothes and exposed skin frequently. • Do not sit on ground or on logs in bushy areas. • Use insect repellent containing DEET (Diethyl-meta-toluamide). • Keep long hair tied back. <p>Removal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a pair of pointed precision tweezers and grasp tick as close to skin as possible (do not grasp body). • With slow motion, pull steadily outward; Do not twist the tick. • Do not apply petroleum jelly, alcohol, a match or other irritants to tick. • Clean wound with disinfectant and monitor wound for rash symptoms. • If Rash occurs, see physician. 	<p><u>Bees and Wasps:</u></p> <p>Safety Tips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep your eyes peeled for nests, hives, and swarms. • Do not disturb nests, hives, and swarms. • Cover exposed skin if possible. • Watch under leaves and other locations where bees and wasps may be hiding. • Avoid them altogether when possible. <p>Treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove stingers by scraping skin with a piece of hard plastic such as a credit card, or use tweezers to pull them out. • Wash the area with soap and water. • Apply an ice pack. • Use sting-swab to help relieve discomfort and pain (in first-aid kit). • If you have difficulty breathing or coughing, this could be an allergic reaction.—Call 911 immediately!
<p><u>Mosquitoes:</u></p> <p>Safety Tips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear light colored clothes, long-sleeved shirts and pants. • Use insect repellent containing DEET (Diethyl-meta-toluamide). • Eliminate sources of standing water (breeding area for mosquitoes). • Stay inside when possible (not instead of working). • Avoid outdoors at dawn and dusk (active times for mosquitoes). <p>Bites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mosquitoes' saliva contains anti-coagulating agents. • May carry Encephalitis, Malaria, West Nile Virus. • Treat with Calamine lotion or anti-itch medication (in first-aid kits). 	<p><u>Fire Ants</u></p> <p>Safety Tips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for mounds in groves and avoid disturbing them. • They usually inflict bits as groups. • Tuck pants into socks and check for presence of ants occasionally. <p>Treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove ants from skin. • Apply cold compress to relieve pain and swelling. • Wash affected area with soap and water and leave blister intact. • Use sting-swab to help discomfort and pain (in first-aid kit). • People who are allergic to ants should seek medical attention immediately.