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FACT SHEET

Contact:

Abby Rizen
FCF Schmidt Public Relations
484-362-1439
arizen@fcfschmidtpr.com

Allegra Sinclair
BASF
919-547-2329
allegra.sinclair@basf.com

EASTERN SUBTERRANEAN TERMITES

- Eastern Subterranean termites are the most common and most widely distributed termites in all of North America, reaching from southern Ontario in Canada, south throughout the Eastern United States and as far west as Montana.
- Eastern Subterranean termites feed on cellulose materials including structural wood, wood fixtures, paper, books and cotton, and will occasionally attack the roots of shrubs and trees.
- A mature colony of Eastern Subterranean termites can range from a low of 20,000 workers to a high of five million, with an average of 300,000.
 - The colony's queen may add 5,000 to 10,000 eggs per year to the total.
 - Colony growth is slow, and it may take four to 10 years before swarmers are produced.
 - The king and queen in a colony can live for many years, while workers only live for about two years.
- An average colony can consume five grams of wood per day – the equivalent of 2 ½ linear feet of a 2x4-foot pine board annually.
- Colonies are largely located in the ground below the frost line, but secondary colonies can exist above ground.
 - Above ground colonies must have access to a moisture source, such as a roof or plumbing leak.
 - Eastern Subterranean termites will often build shelter tubes for travel between their colonies and their food sources.

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- Eastern Subterranean termites can enter buildings through cracks less than one-sixteenth of an inch wide.
- Common signs of Eastern Subterraneans include dirt-like shelter tubes built to serve as protected paths from the soil to the wood the termites are feeding on, and the translucent wings shed by the kings and queens during swarming.
- Swarming may occur in the spring, but smaller swarms can occur throughout the summer and fall.
- The Termite Institute™, online at www.TermitelInstitute.com, features an interactive map with localized information on termite prevalence by state. Simply click on any state to find out if Eastern Subterranean termites are active.