



Question of the Week

Q: I have mice getting into my house. How can I get rid of the mice I have and prevent more from entering?

A: Around this time of year, mice start looking for a place to spend the winter. House mice have a long history of living with people. Their ability to survive in very small areas with limited amounts of food and shelter makes it difficult to control them, especially in and around older structures. Sanitation is important in keeping mice out of the house. This means cleaning up spilled or uneaten pet food, especially at night, and storing grains or birdseed in tightly sealed glass, plastic or metal containers. Exclusion is another successful and permanent form of mouse control. Homeowners are encouraged to “build them out,” by eliminating all gaps and openings larger than 1/4 inch, through which mice can enter. Also, tightly seal cracks in building foundations and around openings for water pipes, vents and utilities with metal or concrete. Trapping is also an effective method for controlling small numbers of mice. Most hardware and grocery stores carry simple, inexpensive snap traps. Peanut butter is the most popular bait because it is easy to use and very attractive to mice.

For additional information about keeping mice from your home, explore http://web.aces.uiuc.edu/vista/pdf_pubs/MOUSE.PDF or call our toll-free information line at 1-877-398-4769.

Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension's Family, Home & Garden Education Center Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., or e-mail us at answers@unh.edu.