

## **Asian Cockroaches**

Asian cockroaches are small cockroaches that live outdoors in leaf litter or mulch. They are almost identical in appearance to the German cockroach which is a notorious indoor pest.

In the daytime Asian cockroaches prefer shady areas under trees or in mulch. Asian cockroaches can enter houses, but they do not like being indoors. These roaches are strong fliers and can travel long distances.

Asian cockroach numbers have been reported in some areas to be between 30,000 and 250,000 per acre. These roaches become more active at sundown and are attracted to light colored structures and light.

Any light outside your house at night can attract them. When you open your door at night these roaches may scurry inside or fly off the door into your house. Despite the fact that these roaches do not prefer to be indoors, a roach in the house, is still a roach in the house.

Changing the lights outside your home to yellow bulbs can help reduce the numbers of these roaches. Asian cockroaches are difficult to control because of their ability to travel long distances and the numerous outdoor habitats.

Spraying the outdoor areas where the roaches live can help reduce the population in that area. Granular baits applied can also be effective. Products containing permethrin, bifenthrin, cypermethrin, or cyfluthrin are recommended.

If you have mulched areas or natural areas with a lot of leaf litter, these are the places to look for the roaches. Spraying around lights will also help because roaches that come in contact with residuals will be killed. At this time, most pesticides will kill Asian cockroaches.

Unlike the German cockroach, the Asian cockroach has yet to become resistant to commonly used pesticides. This is likely to change in the future because several classes of pesticides are no longer available for roach control. Insects become resistant over time when the same types of insecticides are used and not rotated with other types of insecticides.

Populations of Asian cockroaches are peaking now that it is late summer. As the weather cools and winter arrives the numbers will be reduced. In the spring the females will lay eggs and start the cycle over. There may be two or three generations of Asian cockroaches each year.

Asian cockroaches first entered the United States in Florida in 1986. Asian cockroaches are native Japan and are somewhat tropical in nature. These roaches are commonly spread from one area to another by transporting mulch and other plant materials.

Asian cockroaches are common now in south and coastal Georgia. They have also been found in parts of South Carolina. It is likely that Asian cockroaches will continue to spread through Georgia but it is not know how far north they will become established.

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