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COCKROACH PREVENTION AND CONTROL

There are more than 2,000 species of cockroaches in the world. However, there are only four species in the United States which are troublesome to man.

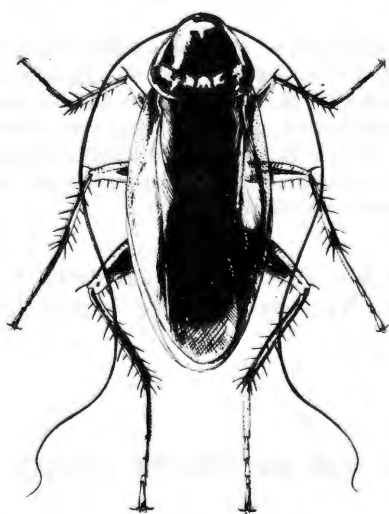
The **American Cockroach**, *Periplaneta americana*, is the largest (1 1/4" to 1 1/2 "). It is reddish brown to dark brown and the wings of both sexes extend back of the tip of the abdomen. The color in the immature stages changes from grayish brown to reddish brown. Sometimes the nymph may be nearly black.

The **Oriental Cockroach**, *Blatta orientalis*, is somewhat smaller (7/8" to 1 1/4" in length). It is dark brown to black and the wings are very small in the female and do not quite reach the tip of the abdomen in the male. The nymphs are

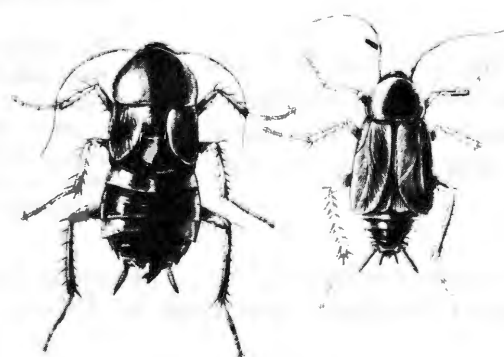
usually black and range from 1/8" to 1 1/4" in size.

The **German Cockroach**, *Blatella germanica*, is the most common and widely distributed species. It is 1/2" to 5/8" long and light brown in color. There are two, dark brown stripes on the head area. Both sexes are fully winged. The young nymphs are dark gray with a lighter gray area on the back. As the nymphs grow, they develop the dark brown stripes.

The **Brown-Banded Cockroach**, *Supella supellectilium*, is a little smaller than the German cockroach (3/8" to 1/2"). It is also light brown, but has two brown crossbands on the forewing, about 1/16" apart. Wings are fully



ADULT AMERICAN COCKROACH



ADULT FEMALE ORIENTAL COCKROACH



ADULT MALE ORIENTAL COCKROACH

GERMAN COCKROACHES (3rd and 4th stage, adult female)

developed in both sexes. The name, Brown-Banded, is more appropriate for the nymphs than for the adults because the nymphs



BROWN-BANDED ROACH
(Adult female and adult male)

have two, light-colored areas with black edges which form brown bands on the back.

Prevention and Control

Cockroaches feed on a wide range of foods—cheese, bread, meat, grain products, garbage, book bindings, dried blood, and excrement are a few examples. Sanitation is very important in control.

Keeping the house clean and watching for cockroaches brought in from the outside are good preventive measures. Individual cockroaches should be killed immediately to prevent spread.

Because cockroaches are flat, they may be found in cracks in walls, underneath low-lying objects, or behind loose baseboards and around pipes. Elimination of these hiding places is very desirable.

By A. H. Retan, Extension entomologist, A. L. Antonelli, Extension entomology assistant, and Richard F. Grassl, graduate student, Department of Entomology, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington.

Chemical control may be necessary if there is a heavy infestation of cockroaches or if they are in inaccessible places. Aerosol bombs containing pyrethrins will kill roaches on contact but will leave no residue for long-lasting control. Household sprays containing chlordane* and diazinon are recommended. Chlordane* should not be used in living areas within the home but can be applied in crawl spaces and around the outside of the home. Spray or dust runways, window and door frames, underneath and around drainboards, around and under sinks, and in cracks and holes near pipes and the like. Be sure to check all potential hiding places in cupboards and under rugs. Spray all hiding places carefully. Do not use residual sprays where small children or pets may get into the residue.

* Notice: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced December 24, 1975, the suspension of products containing chlordane and heptachlor for most agricultural and home uses. This stops all production for these uses; however, stocks produced prior to July 29, 1975, can be sold and used in accordance with label directions. Uses of importance in Washington which were not suspended include use of chlordane for root weevils on strawberries, use of heptachlor for narcissus bulb fly and seed treatments, and use of both chlordane and heptachlor in subsurface ground applications for termites and dipping of roots or tops of nonfood plants.

The College of Agriculture at WSU will continue its current recommendations for suspended uses of chlordane and heptachlor through 1976 in accordance with EPA's decision to permit continued sale and use of those chemicals produced prior to July 29, 1975. EPA has decided it is environmentally safer to allow continued use of existing stocks than attempting to retrieve and dispose of them.



Use pesticides with care. Read the label on the container and follow the directions carefully.

Never smoke while applying insecticides and avoid breathing the spray or dust. Wear natural rubber gloves when handling pesticides. Wash hands and face carefully with soap and water after applying. If insecticides are spilled on the skin or clothing, remove contaminated clothing and wash exposed skin areas thoroughly.

Always store pesticides in their original containers, never in fruit jars or soft drink bottles, and be sure that labels remain on the original containers. Keep containers away from food or animal feed and out of the reach of children or irresponsible persons.