

# EXTENSION

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## Pantry and Stored Food Pests<sup>1</sup>

## P. G. Koehler<sup>2</sup>

There are many species of stored food pests found at various times in food pantries. Most of these pests are introduced into our homes in infested food. Some invade homes through normal methods of entry.

There is hardly a food item in the kitchen or food pantry which can escape being infested by some pest if it remains unused and exposed in some dark corner or drawer long enough. All items are susceptible, including spices, hot pepper, ice cream cones, and even cereals, grits, and cake mixes. Dried flower arrangements and stuffed furniture and toys, often harbor infestations.

Stored food pests are economically important and are responsible for millions of dollars of loss every year in stored foods and other products. Most of the stored food pests under Florida conditions can reproduce quickly and have several to many generations in a year. Many species are active the year around under suitable conditions.

Some of the common pantry pests are flour beetles (Figure 1), saw-toothed grain beetles (Figure 2), cigarette beetles (Figure 3), drugstore beetles, larder beetles, granary weevils (Figure 4), rice weevils (Figure 5), spider beetles, grain moths (Figure 6), flour moths (Figure 7, Figure 8), psocids, and grain mites. Although there are many different kinds of insects that attack stored food, the damage they produce and the control procedures are similar.

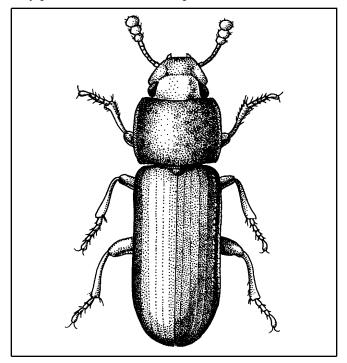


Figure 1. Red flour beetle.

Large populations of these food pests may develop in unused or undisturbed foods which were infested when purchased. A food package which is

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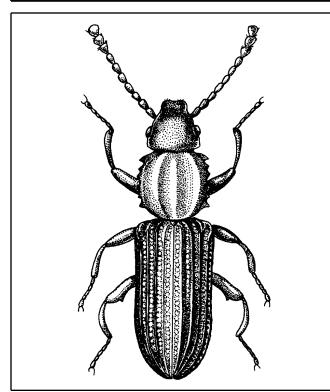


Figure 2. Sawtoothed grain beetle.

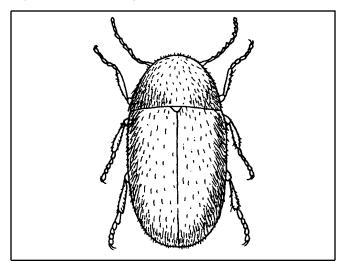


Figure 3. Cigarette beetle.

not tightly sealed after use can also lead to infestation. From the infested food packages, the pests may spread to other exposed food. Often the only way that one knows of their presence is by discovery of an infested and infrequently used food item or the encounter of flying or crawling adults coming from the pantry shelves. Moths and beetles are often attracted to lights or windows and may indicate an infestation. The presence of stored food pests is not an indication of uncleanliness since infestation may be brought home in purchased food.

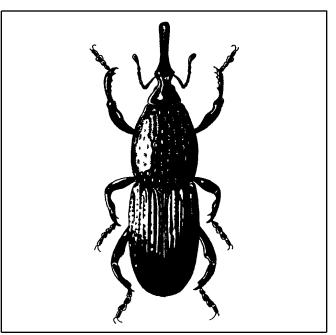


Figure 4. Granary weevil.

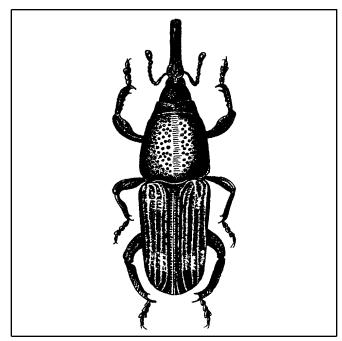


Figure 5. Rice weevil.

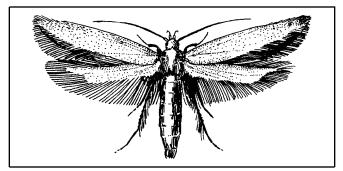


Figure 6. Angoumois grain moth.

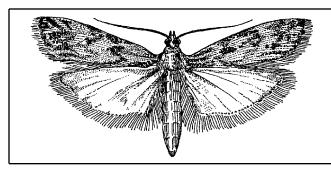


Figure 7. Mediterranean flour moth.

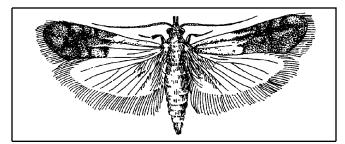


Figure 8. Indian meal moth.

## Control

The basic fundamentals of controlling stored food pests are exclusion, regular inspections, cleaning of shelves, and chemical treatment. Sometimes an infestation can develop on bread or cracker fragments or in some undisturbed, loose flour or meal on one corner of the shelf. Keep all containers tightly closed. Put susceptible items in tight containers or screw-top jars or other sealable containers. Do not overstock shelves with products which will not be used frequently or in a short period of time.

The first step in controlling pantry pests is to locate the source of infestation. All susceptible foods should be thoroughly inspected, and badly infested items discarded. Insects in infested foods may be killed by heat or cold if the item is of value. Infested foods may be placed in an oven at 130°F for 30 minutes or a freezer at 0°F for 4 days to kill insects. If placed in a freezer, the commodity should be used as soon as possible since defrosting usually causes excess moisture in the item. The excess moisture could cause mold to form later. Freezing and defrosting the item in a tightly sealed plastic bag can limit condensation on the product. To kill insects in the storage area, cabinets and shelves should be thoroughly vacuumed to pick up loose infested material and washed with warm, soapy water. After the storage area is dry, apply a residual spray to the cracks, corners, and surfaces of the shelves. Use caution by removing all food items which may be contaminated with spray. Allow the spray application to dry before replacing the food items. Be sure to remove and spray all drawers as well as the inside of the cabinets after cleaning.

Storage of grains and grain products has resulted in considerable problems with stored grain insects in homes and institutions. Whole grain can be fumigated in storage containers with carbon dioxide. Dry ice (frozen carbon dioxide) can be placed in storage containers directly on top of grain at the rate of 1/4 lb per 5 gal container. The container lids should not be tightened for 1/2 hour. After 1/2 hour tighten lids and place the commodity in storage. At least 14 days exposure is necessary to be certain of satisfactory control.

Trade Name (Formulation)		Common Name - %		
Site(s)	Pest(s)	Re-Entry Time	Preharvest Time	Retreatment Interval
CB-38 Extra (Aerosol)		Pyrethrins - 0.30%		
Hotels/motels	Angoumois Grain Moths, Indian Meal Moths, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Rice Weevils, Granary Weevils	None	None	None
Hospitals, Day Care Centers, Schools	Angoumois Grain Moths, Indian Meal Moths, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils, Granary Weevils	None	None	None
darkened areas. Do not spra treatment. Do not remain in containers and other areas v	Direct spray into all parts of room, ay in areas where food is exposed treated areas. Ventilate after trea where these insects tend to congru- utes to 1 hour after treatment.	d in anyway. Keep are atment. Spray into crae	ea closed for 15 minute cks and crevices, arou	es following nd cartons or
Buses/Automobiles	Angoumois Grain Moths, Indian Meal Moths, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Rust Red Flour Beetles, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils, Granary Weevils	None	None	None
	es, around cartons or containers a 00 square feet of surface. Keep			
Railroad Cars/Box Cars/Trains	Angoumois Grain Moths, Indian Meal Moths, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Rust Red Flour Beetles, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles,	None	None	None

Trade Name	(Formulation)	Common Name - %		
Site(s)	Pest(s)	Re-Entry Time	Preharvest Time	Retreatment Interval
Trucks/Trailers, Vessels (Boats/Ships)	Angoumois Grain Moths, Indian Meal Moths, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils, Granary Weevils	None	None	None
areas. Do not spray in areas Keep area closed for 15 minut cracks and crevices, around c	rect spray into all parts of area, e where food is exposed in anyway es following treatment. Do not r artons or containers and other a feet of surface. Keep area close	y. Spray 7 to 10 secon emain in treated areas reas where these inse	nds for each 1,000 cul s. Ventilate after treat cts tend to congregate	bic feet of space. ment. Spray into
Conquer (Emulsifiable conc	entrate)	Esfenvalerate - 3.48	3%	
Apartments/Houses/ Dwellings/Structures/ Garages	Confused Flour Beetles, Rust Red Flour Beetles	Do not contact until dry	None	14 days
and similar protected locations surfaces or utensils that may of	o surfaces where these pests are is in floors and walls. Spray direct come into contact with food. Pri emoved from the area. Do not s	tly on insects when po or to treatment, aquar	ossible. Do not apply	this spray to
Commercial Warehouses/Industrial Buildings/Storage Buildings	Angoumois Grain Moths, Indian Meal Moths, Mediterranean Flour Moths, Cadelles, Cigarette Beetles, Confused Flour Beetles, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils, Grain Mites	Do not contact until dry	None	3 days
	d be removed and destroyed, fu gers. Keep area closed for at le	-		
Demand CS (Microcapsulate	ed suspension)	Lambda-cyhalothri	n - 9.7%	
Hotels/Motels	Cigarette Beetles, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Rust Red Flour Beetles, Lesser Grain Borers, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils	Do not contact until dry	None	3 weeks
For use as a general surface s their immediate surroundings.	J spray and crack and crevice or s	J pot treatment in, on, o	r around buildings and	J I structures and

#### Table 1. Pesticides Available

Trade Name (Formulation)		Common Name - %		
Site(s)	Pest(s)	Re-Entry Time	Preharvest Time	Retreatment Interval
Ficam D (Dust)		Bendiocarb - 1.0%		
Restaurants/Commercial Kitchens	Almond Moths, Angoumois Grain Moths, Cereal Moths, Chocolate Moths, Cocoa Bean Moths, Dried Fruit Moths, European Grain Moths, Flour Moths, Indian Meal Moths, Meal Moths, Mediterranean Flour Moths, Raisin Moths, Tobacco Moths, Warehouse Moths, Coffee Bean Weevils, Common Bean Weevils, Cadelles, Cigarette Beetles, Cabinet, Hide Beetles, Khapra Beetles, Larder Beetles, Warehouse Beetles, Dried Fruit Beetles, Drugstore Beetles, Flat Grain Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Rust Red Flour Beetles, Lesser Grain Borers, Yellow Meal Worms, Dark Mealworms, Merchant Grain Beetles, Rusty Grain Beetles, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Shiny Spider Beetles, Rice Weevils, Granary Weevils, Maize Weevils, Cheese Mites, Grain Mites, Cheese Skippers, Fruit Flies, Mushroom Flies	None	None	None

are found. Treat exposed stages. Apply dust in cracks and crevices behind are under cupboards and cabinets for residual control. Do not apply directly to food, utensils, or food storage areas.

Trade Name (Formulation)		Common Name - %		
Site(s)	Pest(s)	Re-Entry Time	Preharvest Time	Retreatment Interval
Ficam D (Dust)		Bendiocarb - 1.0%		
Restaurants/Commercial Kitchens	Almond Moths, Angoumois Grain Moths, Cereal Moths, Chocolate Moths, Cocoa Bean Moths, Dried Fruit Moths, European Grain Moths, Flour Moths, Indian Meal Moths, Meal Moths, Mediterranean Flour Moths, Raisin Moths, Tobacco Moths, Warehouse Moths, Coffee Bean Weevils, Common Bean Weevils, Cadelles, Cigarette Beetles, Cabinet, Hide Beetles, Khapra Beetles, Larder Beetles, Warehouse Beetles, Dried Fruit Beetles, Drugstore Beetles, Flat Grain Beetles, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Lesser Grain Borers, Yellow Meal Worms, Dark Mealworms, Merchant Grain Beetles, Rusty Grain Beetles, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Shiny Spider Beetles, Rice Weevils, Granary Weevils, Maize Weevils, Cheese Mites, Grain Mites, Cheese Skippers, Fruit Flies, Mushroom Flies	None	None	None

Microcare Pressurized Pyrethrum Capsule Suspension		Pyrethrins + Piperonyl Butoxide + MGK264 - 0.300 + 2.200		
(Aerosol)		+0.336%		
3110(0)				Interval

Trade Nam	e (Formulation)	Common Name - %		
Site(s)	Pest(s)	Re-Entry Time	Preharvest Time	Retreatment Interval
Mobile Homes/Travel Trailers/Recreational Vehicles, Vessels (Boats/Ships)	Angoumois Grain Moths, Indian Meal Moths, Cadelles, Cigarette Beetles, Cabinet, Hide Beetles, Khapra Beetles, Larder Beetles, Warehouse Beetles, Dried Fruit Beetles, Drugstore Beetles, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils, Granary Weevils, Maize Weevils, Grain Mites	Do not contact until dry	None	None
all windows and doors. Dispe	or and injection tubes. Make spot erse in all locations. Leave area of ethrum Capsule Suspension	closed for 15 minutes.		
Mobile Homes/Travel Trailers/Recreational Vehicles, Vessels (Boats/Ships)	Angoumois Grain Moths, Indian Meal Moths, Mediterranean Flour Moths, Cadelles, Cigarette Beetles, Cabinet, Hide Beetles, Khapra Beetles, Larder Beetles, Warehouse Beetles, Dried Fruit Beetles, Drugstore Beetles, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Yellow Meal Worms, Dark Mealworms, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils, Granary Weevils, Grain Mites	None	None	None
treatments are permitted for o	d actuator and tubes. Inject this p certain applications. To make a s to localized areas. Treat area for	pot treatment release	product onto surface.	Make spot or

Trade Nan	ne (Formulation)	Common Name - %		
Site(s)	Pest(s)	Re-Entry Time	Preharvest Time	Retreatment Interval
Mobile Homes/Travel Trailers/Recreational Vehicles, Vessels (Boats/Ships)	Angoumois Grain Moths, Indian Meal Moths, Cadelles, Cigarette Beetles, Cabinet, Hide Beetles, Khapra Beetles, Larder Beetles, Warehouse Beetles, Dried Fruit Beetles, Drugstore Beetles, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils, Granary Weevils, Maize Weevils, Grain Mites	Do not contact until dry	None	None
all windows and doors. Disp	or and injection tubes. Make spot berse in all locations. Leave area or rethrum Capsule Suspension	closed for 15 minutes.		
Mobile Homes/Travel Trailers/Recreational Vehicles, Vessels (Boats/Ships)	Angoumois Grain Moths, Indian Meal Moths, Mediterranean Flour Moths, Cadelles, Cigarette Beetles, Cabinet, Hide Beetles, Khapra Beetles, Larder Beetles, Warehouse Beetles, Dried Fruit Beetles, Drugstore Beetles, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Yellow Meal Worms, Dark Mealworms, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils, Granary Weevils, Grain Mites	None	None	None
treatments are permitted for	J ed actuator and tubes. Inject this p certain applications. To make a s s to localized areas. Treat area for	pot treatment release	product onto surface.	Make spot or

.I. Contact Insecticide (Formula 1) (Aerosol)		Pyrethrins + Pipero	nyl Butoxide - 0.5 + 4	1.0%
Site(s)	Pest(s)	Re-Entry Time	Preharvest Time	Retreatment Interval

Trade Name	(Formulation)	Common Name - %		
Site(s)	Pest(s)	Re-Entry Time	Preharvest Time	Retreatment Interval
Hospitals	Angoumois Grain Moths, Chocolate Moths, Indian Meal Moths, Mediterranean Flour Moths, Cigarette Beetles, Drugstore Beetles, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Rust Red Flour Beetles, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils, Granary Weevils, Grain Mites, Fruit Flies	None	None	None
and crevices. Repeat treatment	r exposed adult and larval stage nt as necessary. Patients shoul ifter spraying. Do not return pat	d be removed from ro	om prior to treatment.	
Nursing Homes	Angoumois Grain Moths, Chocolate Moths, Indian Meal Moths, Mediterranean Flour Moths, Cigarette Beetles, Drugstore Beetles, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Rust Red Flour Beetles, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils, Granary Weevils, Grain Mites, Fruit Flies	None	None	None
and crevices. Repeat treatment	r exposed adult and larval stage nt as necessary. Patients shoul after spraying. Do not return pat	d be removed from ro	om prior to treatment.	
Pestab (Wettable/soluble por	wder)	Lambda-cyhalothri	n - 10.0%	
Restaurants/Commercial Kitchens	Cigarette Beetles, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Lesser Grain Borers, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils	Do not contact until dry	None	3 weeks
Use as a crack and crevice or are exposed.	spot treatment to selective surfa	, ces. Do not apply wh	en facility is in operati	on or when foods

#### Table 1. Pesticides Available

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Trade Name	(Formulation)		Common Name - %	5
Site(s)	Pest(s)	Re-Entry Time	Preharvest Time	Retreatment Interval
Hospitals	Angoumois Grain Moths, Chocolate Moths, Indian Meal Moths, Mediterranean Flour Moths, Cigarette Beetles, Drugstore Beetles, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Rust Red Flour Beetles, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils, Granary Weevils, Grain Mites, Fruit Flies	None	None	None
and crevices. Repeat treatme	r exposed adult and larval stage nt as necessary. Patients shoul after spraying. Do not return pat	d be removed from ro	om prior to treatment.	-
Nursing Homes	Angoumois Grain Moths, Chocolate Moths, Indian Meal Moths, Mediterranean Flour Moths, Cigarette Beetles, Drugstore Beetles, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Rust Red Flour Beetles, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils, Granary Weevils, Grain Mites, Fruit Flies	None	None	None
and crevices. Repeat treatme	J r exposed adult and larval stage nt as necessary. Patients shoul after spraying. Do not return pat	d be removed from ro	om prior to treatment.	
Pestab (Wettable/soluble po	wder)	Lambda-cyhalothri	n - 10.0%	
Restaurants/Commercial Kitchens	Cigarette Beetles, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Lesser Grain Borers, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils	Do not contact until dry	None	3 weeks
Use as a crack and crevice or are exposed.	spot treatment to selective surfa		en facility is in operati	on or when foods

Trade Name (Formulation)	Common Name - %

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#### Table 1. Pesticides Available

Trade Name (Formulation)		Common Name - %		
Site(s)	Pest(s)	Re-Entry Time	Preharvest Time	Retreatment Interval
Grocery Stores/Supermarkets, Hotels/motels	Cigarette Beetles, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Lesser Grain Borers, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils	Do not contact until dry	None	3 weeks
Apply as a crack and crevice exposed.	e or spot treatment to selective sur	faces. Do not apply v	vhen facility is in opera	ition or food is
Prelude (Emulsifiable cond	centrate)	Permethrin - 25.6%	)	
Food Storage Areas (warehouses)	Almond Moths, Angoumois Grain Moths, Cereal Moths, Chocolate Moths, Cocoa Bean Moths, Dried Fruit Moths, European Grain Moths, Flour Moths, Indian Meal Moths, Meal Moths, Mediterranean Flour Moths, Raisin Moths, Tobacco Moths, Warehouse Moths, Coffee Bean Weevils, Common Bean Weevils, Cadelles, Cigarette Beetles, Cabinet, Hide Beetles, Khapra Beetles, Larder Beetles, Warehouse Beetles, Dried Fruit Beetles, Drugstore Beetles, Flat Grain Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Rust Red Flour Beetles, Lesser Grain Borers, Yellow Meal Worms, Dark Mealworms, Merchant Grain Beetles, Rusty Grain Beetles, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Shiny Spider Beetles, Rice Weevils, Granary Weevils, Maize Weevils, Cheese Mites, Grain Mites, Cheese Skippers, Fruit Flies, Mushroom Flies	Do not contact until dry	None	None

Trade Name (Formulation)		Common Name - %			
Site(s)	Pest(s)	Re-Entry Time	Preharvest Time	Retreatment Interval	
Pro-Control Plus Total Release Aerosol Insecticide (Aerosol)		Pyrethrins + Cyfluthrin + Piperonyl Butoxide - 0.5 + 0.1 + 1.0%			
Hospitals, Nursing Homes	Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils	2 hours	None	None	
	y rooms while occupied by patie conditioning. Set fogger on stan rea to air for 30 minutes.	-	-		
Day Care Centers, Schools	Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils	2 hours	None	None	
	en in use. Open doors, drawers, ted area. Keep area closed for a				
Saga WP Insecticide (Wettable/soluble powder)		Tralomethrin - 40.00%			
Aircraft	Angoumois Grain Moths, Indian Meal Moths, Mediterranean Flour Moths, Cigarette Beetles, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Rust Red Flour Beetles, Lesser Grain Borers, Merchant Grain Beetles, Sawtoothed Grain Beetles, Rice Weevils, Granary Weevils, Maize Weevils, Grain Mites	Do not contact until dry	None	None	
from cupboards, shelving, and	s or non-essential personnel are storage areas before spraying. stuffs, utensils or other items. Tr ension (Microcapsulated	Allow all treated surfa	aces to dry and cover		
suspension)					
Hospitals	Cabinet, Hide Beetles, Khapra Beetles, Larder Beetles, Warehouse Beetles, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Rust Red Flour Beetles	Do not contact until dry	None	None	
use this product indoors as an during application. Use only ir	in water and may be sprayed or overall surface spray or as a sp well ventilated areas. Do not a bowls and remove pets before the immediate area.	ace spray; take care r pply where children a	not to introduce this protection introduce the protect of the prot	oduct into the air contact treated	

Trade Name (Formulation)		Common Name - %		
Site(s)	Pest(s)	Re-Entry Time	Preharvest Time	Retreatment Interval
Nursing Homes	Cabinet, Hide Beetles, Khapra Beetles, Larder Beetles, Warehouse Beetles, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Rust Red Flour Beetles	Do not contact until dry	None	None
use this product indoors as an during application. Use only ir	in water and may be sprayed or overall surface spray or as a sp well ventilated areas. Do not a bowls and remove pets before the immediate area.	ace spray; take care i pply where children a	not to introduce this province the second	oduct into the air contact treated
Day Care Centers, Schools	Cabinet, Hide Beetles, Khapra Beetles, Larder Beetles, Warehouse Beetles, Confused Flour Beetles, Red Flour Beetles, Rust Red Flour Beetles	Do not contact until dry	None	None
use this product indoors as an during application. Use only ir	in water and may be sprayed or overall surface spray or as a sp n well ventilated areas. Do not a n bowls and remove pets before	ace spray; take care i pply where children a	not to introduce this protection in the protect of the second s	oduct into the air contact treated