



International

Issue 23 Summer 2019

THE EXTERMINATOR

PelGar news for the pest control industry

Mouse explosions in Australia



A pile of field mice that were poisoned by Australian farmers during the mouse plague of 1917.

As a surge of mouse activity is reported in Australia, PelGar outlines some of the reasons for mouse plagues and potential outcomes.

Mouse plagues have been regularly reported in Australia, causing major loss in agricultural production. In 1917 the town of Lascelles, in the state of Victoria, around 200,000 mice (3 tons in weight) were caught in one night. By the end of June 1917, a total weight of 544 tons, equating to some 32 million mice, had been reported from this one plague. In 1993 one of Australia's worst mouse plagues caused an estimated A\$96 million worth of damage; standing and stored crops were ruined, livestock was attacked, vehicles damaged and electrical and rubber insulation in buildings destroyed.

In 2011 mouse numbers built to plague proportions in southern Queensland, New South Wales, western Victoria and South Australia. "Now again in 2019 we are seeing an alarming rise in rodent numbers," explains Gerwyn Jones, PelGar business manager

for Asia Pacific. "It is therefore crucial that we monitor and put in place strategies for control".

Government guidelines recommend monitoring and observation techniques before use of rodenticides for control. Simple observation, monitoring cards and measurement of grain consumption from bait boxes all help determine a significant increase in mouse numbers. Once a problem is identified the use of rodenticides may be the only option to gain control. Brodifacoum, coumatetralyl, flocoumafen and warfarin can be used around buildings, but only bromadiolone and zinc phosphite are permitted for field use. "From a manufacturer's point of view it is quite difficult dealing with a mouse plague," explains Gerwyn "Within a few weeks, stocks that would normally last months

are gone. It is a real Catch 22 situation - you want to have stock to tackle a plague, but then you don't want to be overstocked if it doesn't materialise."

Integrated pest management strategies are critical to minimise damage caused during a plague. This includes mouse-proofing buildings, reducing the amount of farm rubbish around buildings and employing good farm hygiene practices to help reduce mouse populations exploding when conditions are optimal. It is also crucial that the threat to non-target species is minimal, especially as in-crop and perimeter baiting are accepted methods of control.



Research work on the causes of mouse plagues and predictive models are only 70% accurate, so it is vital that farmers recognize and monitor the early signs of increasing mouse numbers and act to put management practices and control measures in place early on whilst infestations are still small. With weather and the climate certainly having an influence on seasonal mouse populations, it is likely that climate change will have a significant impact on the number and magnitude of plagues in the future.

To read the full article please visit www.pelgar.co.uk/news. ■

PelGar strengthens its team

As its business expands, PelGar International is strengthening its team with new appointments at its Alton based head office and Church Farm Training Centre.



Lauren Hypson



Rhian Strothers



Maddie Lindsay



Chloe Mould

As all biocide pest control products need to pass through the registration process, the Regulatory department is key to the company's success. **Lauren Hypson** has joined the Regulatory team as a **Regulatory Officer** to support this work. Previously Lauren worked at HSE in the Chemical Regulation Division doing human exposure risk assessment for pesticides and biocides.

Rhian Strothers has joined PelGar as **Regional Sales Coordinator for Europe** to provide admin support to Vincent Russo, Regional Business Manager for Europe, assisting with managing and growing the large portfolio of customers.

PelGar's Church Farm Training Centre offers unique classroom facilities, simulated training scenarios, live rodents for behavioural studies and purpose-built laboratories for insect cultivation and research. **Maddie Lindsay** has joined PelGar as the new **Unit Supervisor** at Church Farm with responsibility for preparing and carrying out insecticide tests and supervising the animal technicians, **Chloe Mould** and **Courtney Girling** who have joined PelGar to care for the rodents and insects. ■



Product Focus

Cimetro Super

What

An advanced multi-active insecticide concentrate, for the control of bedbugs, fleas and other crawling insects, Cimetro Super has been specifically designed to give rapid access of the active ingredient to the target pest while providing long lasting residual control.

Cimetro Super contains a Type I pyrethroid for fast flushing and knockdown, a Type II pyrethroid for rapid kill of the insects, a metabolic synergist to bypass insect metabolic resistances, and an Insect Growth Regulator (IGR), demonstrating a completely different mode of action, to ensure that any stubborn populations never get to pass their resistant properties onto the next generation.

Who

For professional use.

How

Cimetro Super should be diluted with water and applied by compression sprayer paying particular attention to floor/wall junctions, cracks and crevices, bed frames, etc.

When

Use Cimetro Super as soon as infestations are discovered. Using this advanced formula first time will increase your success rate and reduce call backs.

Where

Cimetro Super is approved for use in domestic and commercial premises for treatment of a wide range of pests. ■

Trade Show Focus

Find out where you can meet the PelGar team over the coming months.

DSEI

London ExCel 10-13 Sep

Did you know PelGar supplies a range of chemical decontamination products and insect repellents to the British military? This is one of the largest trade shows in the sector and PelGar will be aiming to attract other NATO members.

PestWorld

San Diego, USA 15-18 Oct

Once again PelGar will be at the NPMA's international show with a strong presence to provide product information and seek new opportunities with our global customers.

Pest Tech

Milton Keynes, UK 6 Nov

Come and meet the PelGar team on stand C9 at the NPTA's annual show which, following on from last year's success, is back at Milton Keynes.

PPC Live

Harrogate, UK 11 March 2020

On the back of the BPCA's PPC magazine, this time the live show is taking place in Yorkshire. Come and meet the PelGar team on stand 14 ■



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Full product details can be found at www.pelgar.co.uk. Use biocides safely. Always read the label and product information before use.

