

# Crickets everywhere!

It's getting colder at night and we all know that winter is coming. Crickets know this too! Now is the time when these and other insect pests (boxelder bugs, Asian ladybugs) start invading our home, looking for shelter.


Cricket populations are flourishing now due to the abundant food and moisture in our yards. You can hear them chirping at night. These chirpers are male crickets rubbing their wings together in hopes of attracting a mate. Do you know you can estimate the temperature by counting the number of chirps in 15 seconds and then adding 40 to the total?

You can prevent crickets and other nuisance insects from entering your home by sealing/caulking any cracks around doors, windows, and the foundation. Mow your lawn and keep your other vegetation tidy near the home. Remove any firewood, brush, and debris near the foundation.

Most crickets in North Dakota are attracted to light. Reduce your outdoor lighting. Yellow lights will be less attractive to crickets compared to white, neon, or mercury vapor lights.

When infestations are severe, insecticide sprays can be applied around the perimeter of a home. Synthetic pyrethroids such as lambda-cyhalothrin, cyfluthrin, and deltamethrin are often found in household insecticides and can repel pests for at least a few days.

In the home, crickets will be attracted to sweaty, food-stained clothing. They can feed on cotton, linen, silk, and other natural fabrics. Crickets have one generation per year and rarely reproduce indoors. Crickets in the house can be trapped with sticky yellow glue boards, especially if baited with cornmeal in the center of the board.

Don't worry. This cricket invasion will end soon. As soon as a hard frost comes, the chirping will cease and you can sleep better at night. 

**NDSU**  
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