

# What's Bugging You?



*A Seasonal Guide to  
Pest Control in Arizona*



By  
Bug&Weed  
Mart



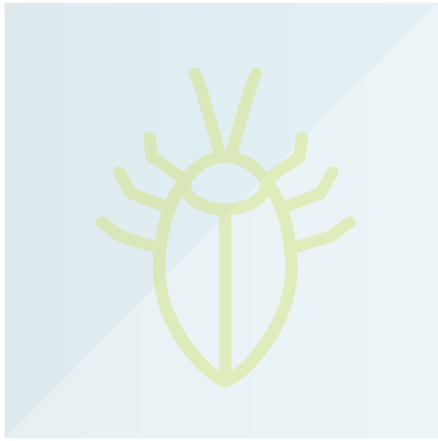
Bugs and weeds don't hibernate in the winter here. So, it can be difficult to determine when weed and pest control should be scheduled. Especially if you're new to Arizona. Our seasons are very different than in other parts of the country; this is the desert, after all. Well, there's no longer a need to search for hours to find out when or what you're supposed to do to get rid of pests or the best time to spray for weeds.

We have the ultimate guide to tell you when the best times to take care of all your own pest and weed control. If you're going to do it yourself, then Bug & Weed Mart is here to help!

*"What's Bugging You? A Seasonal Guide to Pest Control in Arizona"* is a great resource for anyone who understands how easy it is to take care of their bug and weed problems on your own. No need to spend thousands for a company to do something that you can do for a fraction of the cost.

For even more information, go to our website to find out about the many bugs and weeds we have here in the desert and how to control or eliminate them.

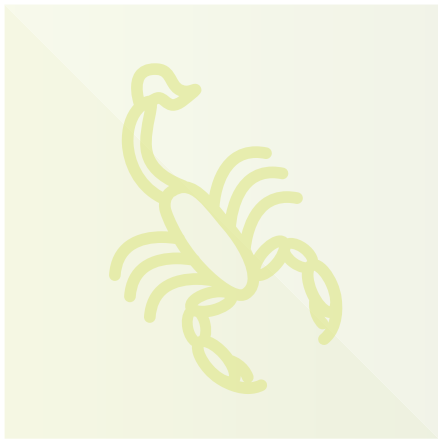
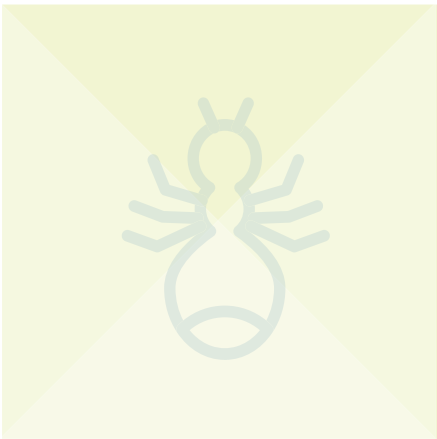




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A Seasonal Guide to Pest Control in Arizona

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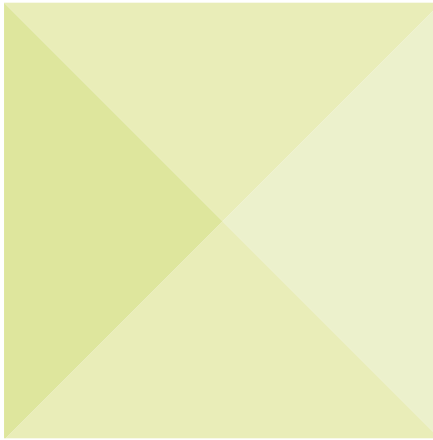


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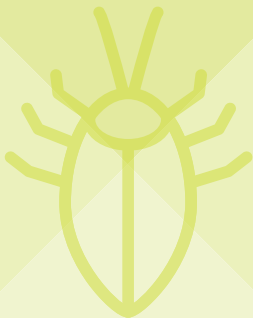
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[www.BugWeedMart.com](http://www.BugWeedMart.com)



# January–February

The average temperature during these months is between 56° and 60°F, with average precipitation right around .92". January is the official "winter" month in Phoenix and on February 20, 2013, graupel (a kind of soft hail) fell, although it was widely believed to be snow. The heaviest snowstorm on record in Phoenix was January 21–22, 1937, when 1 to 4" fell in parts of the city and did not completely melt for three days.



Inspect house exterior for evidence of termites. **Termite prevention** with a granule termiticide can end up saving you headaches, as well as money. Termites are most active November through February, so using termite granules to deter these pests before they can damage your property is easy and inexpensive.

**Apply insect granules** around your home. An insecticide perimeter treatment serves as the first line of defense around your home, stopping a number of pests before they enter. When applied correctly, this type of treatment offers one of the best insecticide defenses against outdoor pests that migrate inside. Perimeter treatments typically form a 3-foot-wide barrier on exterior surfaces and are applied using a **drop spreader or a hand-held spreader**.

**Apply outdoor spray**, especially around door frames and windows from base of wall up 1-2 feet. This type of liquid barrier works like granules in that it prevents pests from entering the home, but the spray can target areas where granules do not work.

**Treat olive trees** prior to bud bloom. Call us for specific details.

**Bees** are active when it's warmer than usual and are needed for crop pollination, but you should call us if you have a swarm. Three of the types of bees most commonly encountered by homeowners are honey bees, carpenter bees, and bumble bees. These bees usually become active in the spring with the warm weather and flowering of plants. They remain active throughout the summer and into the fall.

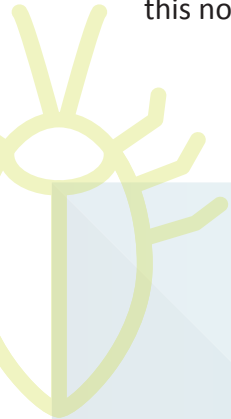
**Weeds** will go crazy during the next 5-6 weeks if you didn't apply a pre-emergent. Granular and liquid pre-emergent herbicides work by putting a chemical barrier down over the top of the soil or rocks. This stops the seeds from germinating and becoming weeds. **Pre-emergents** can be applied directly onto lawns, and around plants, shrubs, and succulents, as well as onto landscaping rocks/gravel.

## January-February

Rodents like cooler weather and are more active in the winter. Keep your citrus trees picked in order to control the **roof rat** population. When it's colder outside, rats and mice look for warmer habitats, including inside your home, so plug up any areas where these pests can gain entry. We also carry many products and have several tips in our stores to help you combat any rodent problem.

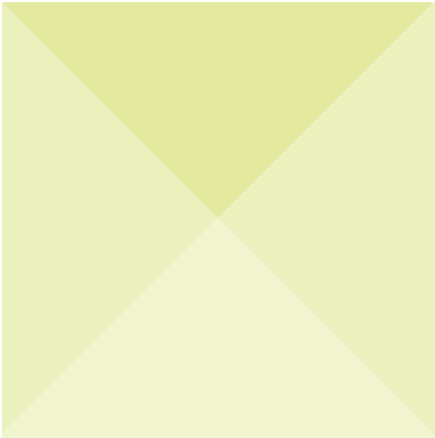
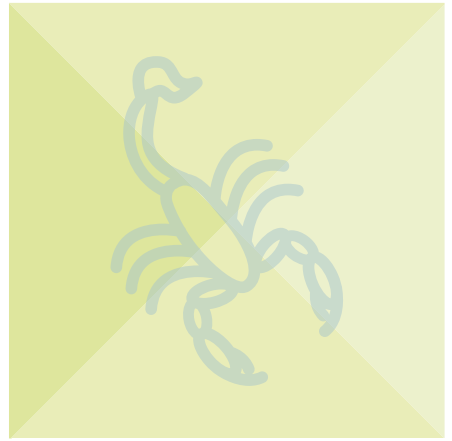
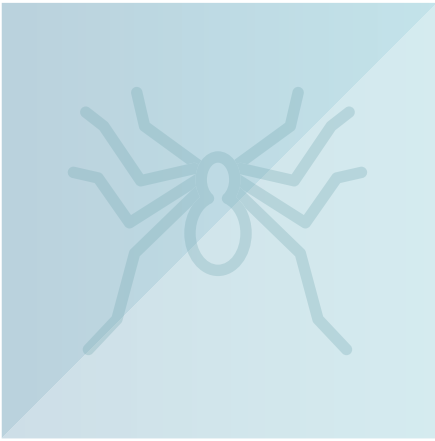
**House (German) roaches** are most active in winter, but can be controlled through a variety of measures. Since roaches can crawl through very small cracks in the foundation of your house or under doors or around windows, make sure to seal those entryways to prevent roaches from entering your home. We sell natural borates that can be used in dust form for roach control and added to mop water for roach control in restaurants.

Apply grass and weed killer pre-emergent. You should re-apply pre-emergents at least twice a year – or more often as needed – as this treatment is not usually once and done. **Pre-emergents** stop seeds from germinating and turning into weeds, so taking care of this now saves time and effort later.









# March– April

The average temperature in spring is 65° to 73°F and the average precipitation in March is .98” and only .27” for April. The Phoenix metropolitan area is known as the “Valley of the Sun” due to its location in the Salt River Valley and its subtropical desert climate, which is typical of the Sonoran Desert.

Apply **insect granules** around your home and lot perimeter to keep pests out. Clearing clutter from around your house, as well as from around other buildings on your property, is another easy preventative measure that helps keep any number of pests from invading your home.

**Spray indoor pest control treatment** (if necessary) in order to control insects that invade your home. If you are still noticing spiders, crickets, ants, or even scorpions in your home, spray to treat those areas where they gain access, but also make sure to caulk and seal those tiny entrances. Bugs don't need a wide open door to walk into your home!

Inspect house exterior for evidence of **termites**. This means looking for termite tubes. Termites build shelter in the form of tubes up a foundation or across other surfaces to gain access to their food supply: wood. They build these tubes out of particles of soil and their feces, which recreates their damp, underground environment. Once you discover these tubes, you can easily treat those specific areas.

**Nutgrass** driving you, well, nutty? We can show you how to kill nutgrass. Nutgrass looks a little like regular grass, but can cause you to have to mow twice as often, so get rid of it now!

With warming weather, **bees** are more active, so keep an eye out for nests and swarms. We sell pheromone-containing glue boards that naturally attract bees away from re-entering places they have been before.

April is when **snakes** are most active. They are also more dangerous at this time because this is when molting occurs. Snakes are not able to see during molting and will strike more readily because of that. Sprinkle repellent in order to keep them from being able to enter your home, but don't kill snakes, if possible, since the majority are excellent at controlling rodents.

March–April

**Rabbits** are difficult to control and, as we've all heard, multiply rapidly. Repellents are an effective way to keep these pests from damaging your landscape and running rampant. We feature natural rabbit repellants and safe animal traps.

Controlling **gophers** can be as easy as using a gopher probe to place poisoned bait in a gopher's hole. The gophers then actually die underground and aren't lying around for your pets to find. Gophers like to eat the roots of bushes, plants, and trees and can cause extensive damage to landscaping, including digging many holes around your property that you and your loved ones can fall into, so it's best to take these pests out as soon as you notice them.

**Crickets, spiders, and scorpions** can be controlled with the right granule/spray combination. Sealing cracks in your home's foundation, as well as caulking around doors and windows, will also help keep these pests from invading your home.

**Flies** are seasonal, though more prevalent in the spring. If you have horses and dogs, you'll probably have more flies than homeowners without outdoor pets. Pick up dog and cat droppings often and come in for our bacterium-containing products, like foams that eat out clogged drains, to get rid of flies.

**Apply post-emergent** weed killer on spring weeds and any grass growth to control weeds and keep your lawn and landscaping the envy of your neighborhood. No one wants to be weeding in our 110°+ temperatures!







# May–June

The beginning of summer is when the Phoenix area starts experiencing average temperatures of 82° to 91°F. The average precipitation varies from .11" in May to a mere .02" in June. On average, there are 107 days annually with a high of at least 100°F, which includes most days from late May through early October. The hottest day ever recorded in the Valley was on June 26, 1990 when temperatures reached 122°F.



May-June

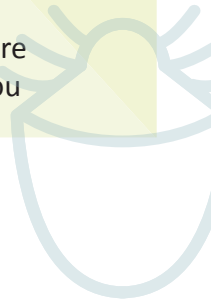
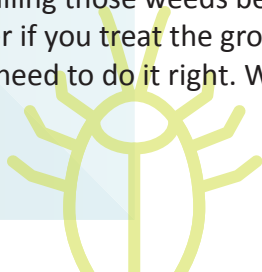
**Apply insect granules and spray** around home since pests don't take a vacation. You need to continue to monitor to make sure what you're using is working. If you are not sure what kinds of insects are invading your home, use our glue traps, which are very effective in diagnosing what kind of pests you have in or out of your home.

Beware, it's **tick season!** Watch where you take your dogs and be careful about where your kids play. We want you to be safe, so prepare the area around your home so you and your loved ones don't have to worry.

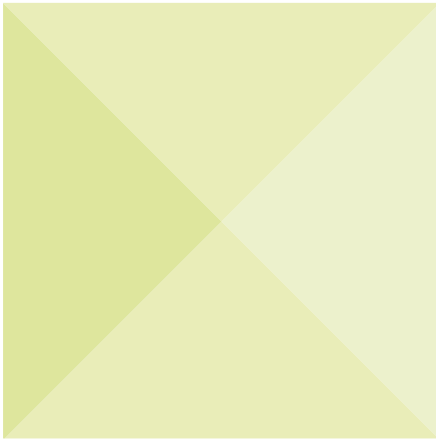
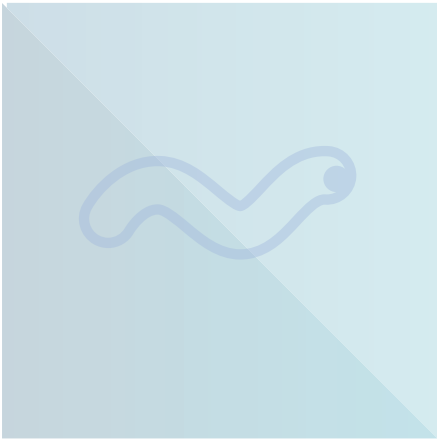
Kissing bugs (aka Conenose bug or **Mexican Bedbug**) are most active during May and June, mostly because of people going on vacation, though these pests are not necessarily seasonal and can actually be found throughout the year. So, if you're traveling, don't return with bed bugs! We can show you how to tell if you have bed bugs and how to get rid of them if you do have them.

**Bark scorpions** are most active in the Phoenix valley during the warmer months (create footnote for scorpion eguide once published). This extreme scorpion season means being extra vigilant around your home and property, especially if you have children and elderly family members, as they are the most susceptible to scorpion venom. Regular spraying and the application of granules should be taking care of scorpions from entering your home. If it's not, though, contact any of our experienced store managers to help you solve your scorpion problem. The products we show you will also be safe around pets and children, are usually odorless, and non-staining, as well.

If you are putting in a winter lawn, you should be putting your **pre-emergent** down in June and July. Killing those weeds before they even crop up will make your yard work that much easier if you treat the ground now. Applying a pre-emergent is easy and we carry what you need to do it right. We can also show you how!







# July–August

In 2008, the National Weather Service decreed that June 15 would be the official first day of monsoon and that it would end on September 30. With average temperatures right around 95°F, the average summer high temperatures are some of the hottest of any major city in the US and approach those of cities such as Riyadh and Baghdad. Average precipitation is right around 1", as monsoon not only raises humidity level, but can cause flooding, large hail, strong winds, the rare tornado, and dust storms, known as haboobs.



July-August

The incredible heat and high humidity during monsoon means pests are around even more, so **spray and granulate** outside, which will take care of 90% of pests. Apply insect granules and spray around home and lot perimeter. When it rains, the barrier you applied earlier in the year has by now been washed away, so re-application is needed throughout the year, but especially if you continue to see pests in and around your home.

Apply **indoor spray** around doors and windows if you continue to have problems with bugs inside your home. Many of our treatments are organic and can be safely sprayed on baseboards, even if you have children or pets. We even carry a ready-to-use product made from a citric acid base, which can be used on the food preparation areas of home kitchens and restaurants that instantly kills insects!!

Termites are particularly active during monsoon, but treating for these tiny pests is easy with our granule termiticide. Remember also to keep looking for **termite tubes** – both inside and outside – as they are tell-tale signs which will tell you where these little buggers are and where they can be treated directly.

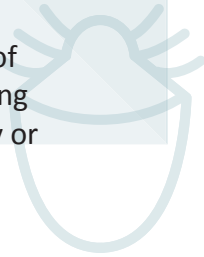
**Palo Verde beetles** come out each July, and are most active in the early evening. These large subterranean grubs feed on the roots of Palo Verde trees and bite, as well as fly, so use caution when treating for them.

**Ants, spiders, scorpions, mosquitoes, gnats, flies, and weeds** all go nuts around this time of year. The spraying and application of granules for the pests will help combat critters, while the use of pre- and post-emergents will help keep the weeds to a minimum. With the probability of rain during monsoon, reapplication of sprays and granules is necessary to keep pests away. Ask us how you can accomplish this successfully.

July-August

**Post-emergents** are used when it's warm or if a pre-emergent has not been used. These treatments significantly reduce the weeds in your lawn or xeriscaping. Eliminating the amount of work you need to keep your yard looking beautiful year round is easy when you apply a pre- and post-emergent and it's easy to do, too.

**Mosquitoes** are active during the change of seasons, especially when the amount of moisture in the air rises. Since mosquitoes lay their eggs where there's water, making sure there's no standing water on your property can cut down on the need to spray or apply granules for mosquito control.





# September–October

The average temperature for September is 88° & 77°F for October, with average precipitation for both months right around .61" Every day from June 10 through August 24, 1993, the temperature in Phoenix reached 100°F or more, which was the longest continuous number of days over 100° in the city's history. On September 8, 2014, Phoenix recorded its single highest rainfall with a total of 3.3". The rainfall on this day measured more than Phoenix's annual rainfall average and broke a previous 75-year old record.



## September-October

Apply **insect granules and spray** around home. This process bears repeating, since pests are going to find their way into your home if you make it easy enough for them. Creating a pest-free barrier around your home keeps bugs outside and away from your loved ones.

This is **pre-emergent** season, so apply pre-emergent to lawn, dirt, and landscaped areas and on winter grass after the 2nd mowing (in Oct). This helps to keep your grass green and weed free and the gravel on your property from becoming overrun with weeds.

Apply **post-emergent** weed killer on monsoon weeds and grass growth. All that rain from monsoon helped weeds flourish, but treating your property helps keep weeding to a minimum.

Inspect dwelling exterior for evidence of **termites**. New tubes could mean a new infestation, so put termite granules down if you haven't yet. The damage cause by termites can easily reach thousands of dollars. We sell natural borates, which is a wood treatment that kills termites for 2 to 40+ years.

With the weather changes, certain pests will come out again, including **crickets, spiders, scorpions, mosquitoes, gnats, and flies**. Keeping your property clutter free and with no standing water helps keep these pests to a minimum. We also sell bacterium granules that can control mosquito larvae from 100 square feet to four acres and are safe for animals.

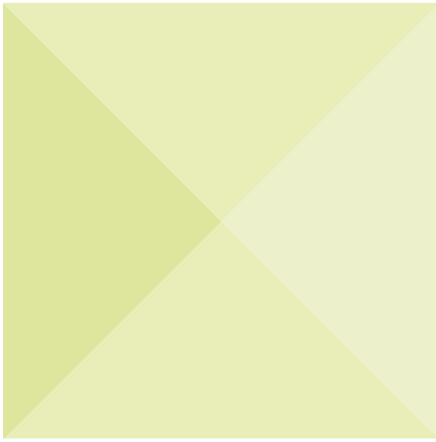
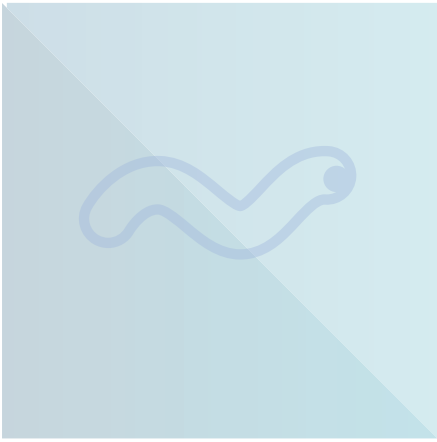
**Snakes** are active again in October because the weather is cooling off. We sell a repellent that does not harm snakes, but keeps them from coming too close to your home. Rattlesnakes are dangerous, though, and you should contact your local fire department to come take away a rattler if you find one on your property.

September-October

**Pigeons** are a problem year round, though they are most active when lawns are being re-seeded, as they view the grass seed as a source of food. Even though some think of pigeons as “just birds,” pigeon droppings can actually do a lot of damage to property, so keeping them away from your house and car, among other things, can save you from having to get your items repaired or replaced. We have several ways to combat pigeons, including using non-chemical barriers like stainless steel bird spikes, and will be happy to show you how.







# November–December

In 2008, the National Weather Service decreed that June 15 would be the official first day of monsoon and that it would end on September 30. With average temperatures right around 95°F, the average summer high temperatures are some of the hottest of any major city in the US and approach those of cities such as Riyadh and Baghdad. Average precipitation is right around 1", as monsoon not only raises humidity level, but can cause flooding, large hail, strong winds, the rare tornado, and dust storms, known as haboobs.

Apply **insect granules** around home and lot perimeter. Don't forget to seal around windows and doors, too! Doing so also helps with conserving energy, which saves money on your utility bills.

**Roof rats**, also known as Norway rats, prefer the warm, dry Arizona climate and eat unpicked citrus from December through February. There are several things you can do to combat roof rats and other rodents, including clearing any clutter away from your home and disposing of any citrus that hasn't yet been picked off your trees. We can help you figure out the best way to get rid of these pesky creatures.

Termite season is when it's cooler and when it rains, so look for **termite tubes** again. Termites are all over the Phoenix area, so you are not alone if you find these tiny insects on your property. But getting rid of them before they can destroy your property is key. Apply our granule termiticide to stay in front of what could become a serious problem.

If traveling for the holidays, don't return with **bed bugs**! We can show you how to protect yourself and we sell numerous products that kill bed bugs in bedding and mattresses, as well as in walls and furniture.

When was your **sprayer** given any TLC? Let us tune it up for you. A good sprayer is vital for use throughout the year. Without one, the application of liquid pre- and post-emergents is ineffective and controlling insect populations is much more difficult. We not only sell the kind of sprayer you need to control your bug and weed problems, but we can perform a thorough check-up on the sprayer you already have.



November-December

**Feral cats** help control the rodent population, but they can cause other issues around your property, too. We have a ready-to-use liquid spray that is very effective on a number of animals, including cats. We also have a humane “critter containment” system, including a great trap that safely captures cats so you can relocate them off your property.



**Allow the knowledgeable and friendly staff at our 5 Bug and Weed Mart locations across the Phoenix metro area to help you determine which pest or weed product is best for your situation.**

**Bug and Weed Mart is committed to providing the community with EPA-registered products safe for families and pets and we also offer many organic pest control options.**

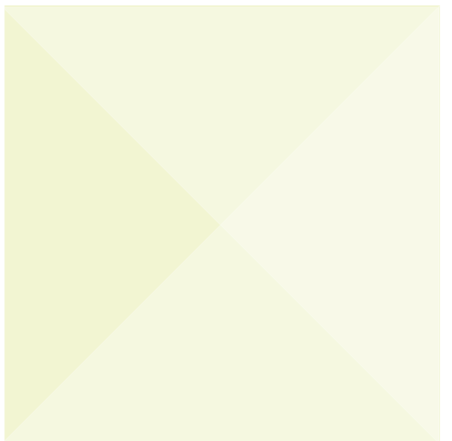
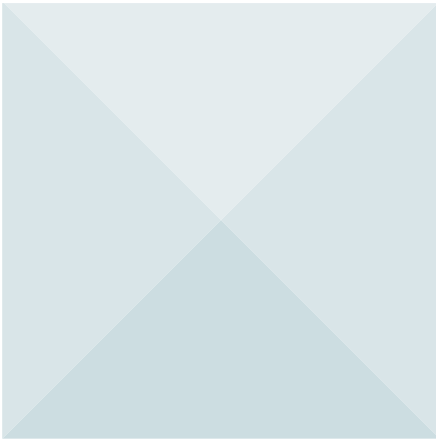
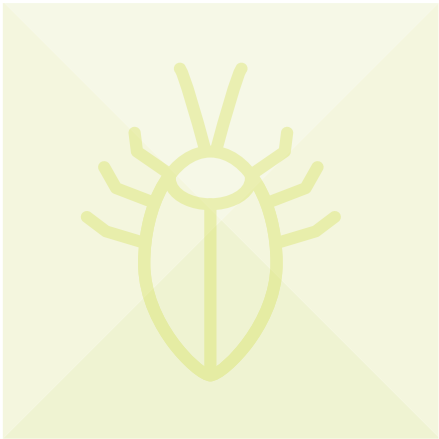
**There's no need to pay a service to control bugs and weeds; you can do it yourself at a fraction of the cost and we can help you every step of the way. Each of our experienced store managers is a Certified Applicator, who will take the time to make sure our customers know exactly what to do and how to do it.**













[bugweedmart.com](http://bugweedmart.com)