



Fall 2026

Braman Pest Quarterly

Seasonal Smarts, Service Updates and Pest Prevention Tips

Fall Is Move-In Season... for Pests

Cooler weather has a way of bringing everyone indoors. Unfortunately, that includes mice, stink bugs, ladybugs, cluster flies and other unwelcome guests.

The good news? A few smart steps now can make your home or business much less inviting all winter.

Fall is all about preparation. We put away patio furniture, clean up our yards and start thinking about everything that needs to happen before winter arrives. Pest prevention belongs on that list.

As temperatures drop, insects, rodents and wildlife start looking for protected places to spend the colder months. A small opening along a foundation, a worn garage door seal or an unprotected roofline can suddenly become an entrance.

That's why this issue is focused less on reacting to pests and more on getting ahead of them. You'll find practical steps you can take around your home or facility now, along with a look at some of the pest activity our team expects to see this fall.

As always, if something doesn't look right, give us a call. We're happy to help you figure out what you're seeing and what, if anything, needs to be done.

Enjoy the season.

—Justin

Justin Lazarus
Vice President, Sales & Marketing



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Five Fall Visitors You'd Rather Not Host

Stink Bugs: Brown marmorated stink bugs often gather on buildings before working their way into protected spaces for the winter. There, they may remain hidden until warm indoor temperatures or sunny winter days get them moving again.



Boxelder Bugs: These insects commonly gather on sunny exterior walls, particularly around buildings near boxelder, maple or ash trees. Large groups may eventually find their way through cracks around windows, doors, siding and rooflines.



Ladybugs: Multi-colored Asian ladybugs may look harmless enough outside, but they have a habit of gathering in large numbers and slipping into buildings through small openings. Once inside, they can stain surfaces with defensive secretions and become a persistent nuisance.



Cluster Flies: Cluster flies are larger and slower than typical house flies. Adults seek sheltered places to overwinter and may gather inside attics, wall voids and upper floors. If a few make it inside, vacuuming is often the easiest way to remove them.



Mice: The house mouse doesn't need much of an invitation. Mice can enter through openings smaller than a dime, making gaps around utility lines, foundations, garage doors and other building penetrations worth a close look.



Seasonal Pest Watch

Keep Fall Invaders Outside

To us, the first crisp fall morning means changing leaves, sweaters and maybe another cup of coffee. To a pest, it can mean one thing: find shelter.

As outdoor temperatures fall, many pests begin searching for protected places where they can spend the winter. Homes and commercial buildings offer plenty of possibilities, particularly around windows, doors, siding, rooflines, utility penetrations and other small gaps.

Our technicians regularly encounter fall invaders including boxelder bugs, stink bugs, ladybugs and cluster flies. Rodents also become an increasing concern as cooler weather pushes them toward buildings in search of food, warmth and nesting sites.



Braman in the News

Local media outlets count on our experts to help educate the public about the threats pests pose to our communities and our health. Recent topics have included ways to reduce your risk of tick bites, how to safely clean up after rodent activity and why lanternfly sightings are on the rise.

Visit bramanpest.com/news to check out these stories and more.



Seasonal Pest Watch

The Best Time to Stop Them? Before They're Inside.

Once overwintering pests have settled into wall voids, attics or other protected areas, control becomes more complicated. That's why exclusion is such an important part of fall pest prevention.

Look for the little things:

- Worn weather stripping
- Gaps beneath exterior doors
- Damaged window screens
- Openings around pipes, conduits and utility lines
- Cracks along foundations
- Loose siding or trim
- Unprotected vents
- Gaps around rooflines and soffits

Our approach to integrated pest management starts with inspection and correct identification, then addresses contributing conditions such as sanitation and exclusion before determining what treatment is appropriate.

Fall Prevention Checklist

Around Your Home

- ☐ Seal visible exterior cracks and gaps, including around utility penetrations
- ☐ Replace damaged screens
- ☐ Check weather stripping around doors
- ☐ Inspect garage door seals
- ☐ Trim shrubs and branches away from the structure
- ☐ Keep firewood and dense vegetation away from houses and garages
- ☐ Reduce clutter in garages, basements and storage areas
- ☐ Keep human food, pet food and ingredients in secure containers



Around Your Business

- ☐ Inspect loading docks and receiving doors
- ☐ Check door sweeps throughout the facility
- ☐ Seal utility and plumbing penetrations
- ☐ Keep dumpsters closed and surrounding areas clean
- ☐ Correct water leaks and drainage problems
- ☐ Keep landscaping from contacting exterior walls
- ☐ Monitor storage rooms and low-traffic spaces

BOTTOM LINE: The easiest pest problem to solve this winter is the one you prevent this fall.



Stink Bugs, Ladybugs and Cluster Flies: Why Are They Suddenly Everywhere?

Some insects don't want to spend the winter outdoors any more than we do. Stink bugs, ladybugs and cluster flies begin seeking protected overwintering sites as the weather cools. Sunny exterior walls may become gathering areas before insects move into cracks, wall voids, attics and other protected spaces.

Once they are inside the structure, repeatedly treating the insects you happen to see doesn't address the larger question: How did they get in?

That's why exclusion should be the first line of defense. Check windows, doors, screens, siding, vents, utility penetrations and roofline transitions for openings. Insects need surprisingly little room to enter.

If cluster flies or similar pests appear indoors, a vacuum can handle small numbers without crushing them against walls or furnishings. Larger recurring populations may indicate entry points that need professional attention.

Fall rule of thumb: Don't just deal with the bug. Deal with the doorway.

Make Your Building Less Spider-Friendly

- Reduce clutter in basements, garages and storage rooms
- Vacuum webs in low-traffic areas
- Repair screens
- Seal openings around doors and windows
- Reduce exterior lighting that attracts flying insects where practical
- Address other insect activity that may be providing prey

An occasional spider can usually be handled with simple removal. Frequent sightings, large numbers or activity combined with other pest signs may warrant a closer inspection.

Spider math: Less prey. Fewer hiding places. Fewer reasons to stick around.



Fall Spider Activity Explained

If spiders suddenly seem more noticeable in fall, you're not imagining the sightings. Late summer and fall are times when many spiders are larger, more mobile and easier to spot. Males of some species travel in search of mates, while spiders that already live around buildings may follow insect prey toward protected areas.

Spiders can remain active in basements, attics and other protected indoor spaces even during winter. The important thing is not to turn every spider sighting into a five-alarm emergency. Spiders are predators. They feed on insects, so repeated spider activity may also point to another pest population providing a food source.





Protection that Doesn't End When Summer Does

Your attic may not look luxurious to you, but to a squirrel facing a New England winter, the reviews could be excellent.

Fall is an important time to inspect roofs, chimneys, soffits and other areas wildlife may investigate for shelter. Squirrels can enter buildings and damage wiring. Raccoons may exploit vulnerable roof or chimney areas. Bats may roost in attics, behind loose boards and in other protected spaces.

Look Up Before Winter Sets In

Walk around your property and look for:

- Loose or damaged soffits
- Openings along roof edges
- Damaged attic vents
- Uncapped or damaged chimneys
- Tree limbs touching or overhanging the roof
- Gaps where rooflines meet
- Signs of chewing or digging
- Unusual noises in ceilings or attic spaces

Also keep outdoor garbage securely contained and trim branches away from structures where practical. These steps can make your property less attractive and reduce easy access.

Don't Turn Wildlife Removal into a DIY Project

Wild animals can bite, scratch, carry disease and become more dangerous when frightened or cornered.

If you suspect an animal has entered an attic, chimney or other part of your building, avoid handling it yourself. Our wildlife services include humane removal and exclusion designed to address both the animal and the way it entered.

Hearing something overhead? Before scratching, scampering or thumping turns into structural damage, call us at **800-338-6757**.

Latest from the Braman Blog

Visit bramanpest.com/blog any time. Have a question you don't see answered?

Give us a call or submit it at bramanpest.com/contact. You might even see it featured in a future issue!



Firewood, Leaf Piles and Mulch: Fall Pest Prevention Tips



Fall Pest Pressure: Loading Docks, Dumpsters and Delivery Areas



Late-Summer Fleas: When Outdoor Fleas Become an Indoor Problem



Protection that Doesn't End When Summer Does

When the last mosquito disappears from the patio, it can feel like pest season is finally over. The pests disagree.

Fall brings rodents and overwintering insects. Winter can bring continued rodent activity indoors. Spring starts the cycle again with ants and stinging insects.

That changing pest pressure is exactly why Braman Termite and Pest Elimination's MultiPest Plan is built around four seasonal visits each year, with service adjusted for the time of year, weather and conditions around your residential property.

Four Seasons. Different Pest Pressures.

Spring: Ants and stinging insects begin emerging.

Summer: Bees, wasps and hornets reach peak activity.

Fall: Rodents, ladybugs and stink bugs start heading indoors.

Winter: Rodents settle into protected indoor environments.

That means fall isn't the end of pest prevention. It's one of the most important times to be proactive.



Add the Power of MultiPest+

Homeowners who want broader protection can combine our standard MultiPest Plan with additional coverage for:

- **Termites**
- **Mosquitoes**
- **Ticks**
- **Ticks and mosquitoes**

Why Start in Fall?

Because the mouse trying to get inside in November doesn't care that mosquito season ended in September. Starting now puts attention on the pests and entry points that matter this season while establishing ongoing protection for the seasons ahead.

What Our MultiPest Plan Covers

Braman's MultiPest Plan includes inspection and treatment for 20 common New England pests, including carpenter and other ants, spiders, crickets, wasps, hornets, bees, ground beetles, earwigs, silverfish, millipedes, centipedes, boxelder bugs, springtails, ladybugs, mice, rats, stink bugs and cockroaches.

The goal isn't simply to respond every time something crawls across the floor. It's to understand what pests are likely to emerge and take preventive steps to keep them away. That means inspection, identification, education, exclusion when appropriate and targeted treatment when needed. In other words: stay ahead instead of catching up.

Special Offer: Add More Protection and Save

Thinking ahead to next year? If you're already a MultiPest customer, upgrade to any of our MultiPest+ plans and we'll give you a free mosquito treatment next spring. Call us at 800-338-6757 and use code MOSQUITO2027 to activate. Online, add MultiPest and Mosquito Treatment to your cart and enter the same code. Not a MultiPest subscriber? Enroll by October 31 and we'll waive the \$100 set-up fee.

Use code SETUP2027.





Documentation Matters

A strong health care pest management program is not simply a response to sightings. It involves routine inspection, monitoring, communication and documentation.

We collect findings and service information and make that data available through our customer portal. Our health care programs are designed in coordination with facility personnel including environmental services, food services and other relevant teams.

That ongoing communication matters because no single person sees every part of a health care facility every day. Housekeeping may spot droppings. Kitchen staff may notice fly activity. Maintenance may discover a damaged door sweep. Facilities management can connect those observations and make sure corrective action follows.

Routine Monitoring Beats Emergency Response

The best pest sighting in a health care facility is the one that never happens. Fall inspections give facilities teams an opportunity to identify vulnerabilities before winter pest pressure increases, from loading docks and exterior doors to utility penetrations and storage areas.



Health Care: No Room for Uninvited Visitors

In a health care facility, pest prevention is more than a matter of appearance.

Patients may already be ill or immuno-compromised. Food may be prepared and served on-site. Deliveries arrive throughout the day. Doors open and close constantly. Staff, visitors, equipment and supplies move through multiple areas.

Add cooler weather and increasing rodent pressure, and fall becomes an important time to scrutinize the entire building envelope. Our experienced team provides pest management programs for hospitals, assisted living facilities, ambulatory care centers and nursing homes, with an emphasis on customized programs rather than an off-the-shelf approach.

Start Outside the Patient Room

Effective prevention often begins at the perimeter:

- **Loading docks and receiving areas:** Frequent deliveries and open doors create opportunities for pest entry. Inspect door seals, dock plates and nearby penetrations.
- **Utility penetrations:** A gap around a pipe or conduit may look insignificant to us. To a mouse, it may be an entrance.
- **Kitchens and cafeterias:** Food storage, moisture and waste handling can create conditions that support pest activity. Good sanitation and prompt correction of spills or leaks are essential.
- **Trash and compactor areas:** Keep containers closed, clean surrounding areas and address leakage promptly.
- **Storage rooms:** Low-traffic spaces can allow early pest signs to go unnoticed. Regular monitoring helps identify activity before it spreads.

Planning your facility's fall pest-prevention review?

We develop customized commercial programs for health care environments throughout Southern New England. Scan to learn more, then reach out to schedule a time to talk.





What We're Seeing Now

Rodents are scouting winter accommodation. Cooler weather puts increased pressure on mice to find protected places with access to food, water and nesting material.

↳ **What to do now:** Check exterior doors, garage doors, foundations and utility penetrations. Remember that a mouse can use an opening smaller than a dime.

Boxelder bugs are gathering. Sunny exterior walls can become meeting places for boxelder bugs before they seek protected overwintering sites.

↳ **What to do now:** Repair screens and seal exterior openings before insects make the transition indoors.

Spiders are easier to notice. Fall can bring more visible spider activity as spiders move in search of mates, prey or protected locations.

↳ **What to do now:** Reduce clutter, remove webs and address insect activity that may be providing an easy food source.

Wildlife is checking your roofline. Squirrels, raccoons and other wildlife may investigate attics, roofs and chimneys for protected shelter.

↳ **What to do now:** Trim branches away from roofs and inspect soffits, vents and chimney areas for vulnerabilities.



Before Winter Moves In

Spend a little time looking at your property the way a pest would.

- Where could you get inside?
- Where could you hide?
- Where could you find food or water?

Correct those conditions now and you may have far fewer surprises when winter arrives. And if you find something you're not sure about, that's what we're here for.

