When silverfish inhabit our homes

Special to Pelahatchie News

By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

The silverfish is an elongate silver colored insect. We sometimes find these little gray bugs in our bathtubs. They fall in and can't climb out. We wonder what they are and are they harming anything in our house.

Silverfish live outdoors, but they are also inhabitants of most Mississippi homes, where they damage book bindings, stored papers, wallpaper, photographs, cotton fabrics and similar products. Because they are chewing insects, they can eat through your belongings. It seems that items that have been in storage and left undisturbed for a long time are the most likely to be damaged.

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Silverfish do not bite, sting, or carry diseases or pathogens. Even though they are not a threat to your health, silverfish are not pests you want to live with. Silverfish can damage household goods and building material, and their creepy presence will quickly make your home an unpleasant place to be.

For most homeowners, the nuisance effect of seeing these gray, carrot-shaped, half-inch long insects scurrying around the bathroom or other rooms in the house is more important than the relatively minor damage they do. However, damage to books and other paper products can be significant when items are stored for long periods of time in moist, humid areas such as basements or attics. Silverfish also occasionally feed on cotton, liner or silk clothing. Silverfish do not live by carbohydrates alone, they also feed on dead insects and other sources of protein.

In homes with significant infestations, it is common to find these insects trapped in a sink or bathtub. Silverfish thrive in indoor areas with high humidity. They have an elongate body that tapers from head to tail, with two long antennae protruding from the head and three long filaments protruding from the rear. Silverfish are said to have "no metamorphosis" because the immatures are so similar to adults.

To control silverfish, practice good moisture management and sanitation. Repair water leaks, use ventilation to lower humidity, avoid clutter, vacuum regularly and thoroughly, and be sure to store important documents in bug-proof containers. Apply ready to use spray or aerosol insecticides containing active ingredients like deltamethrin, cyfluthrin, cypermethrin or bifenthrin, to cracks, crevices and voids. This also includes spraying under and behind furniture and appliances, and along baseboards. Dusts containing deltamethrin can also be applied to cracks, crevices and voids. Be sure to follow labels.

Source: *Bug's Eye View*, Number 19 "Silverfish," Mississippi State University Extension, Dr. Blake Layton.

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ERA 2022-2023 Calendar

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Aug. 1-5	**Orientation and Preparation Days** (All Staff and Faculty)
Aug. 4	**K4 and KS Students and Parents "Back-to School" Day** (8-9:30 a.m.) **1st-4th Grades "Back-to-School" Night** (5-6:30 p.m.) **5th-8th Grades "Back-to-School" Night** (6:30-8 p.m.)
Aug. 5	**K3 Students and Parents "Back-to-School" Day** (8-9:30 a.m.) **9th Grade Student Orientation** (8-9:30 a.m.)
Aug. 8	**Regular School Day** (K3-12th Grade)
Sept. 5	**Labor Day Holiday**
Sept. 23	**Homecoming** (School will dismiss at 11:30)
Oct. 10	**Columbus Day**
Nov. 21-25	**Thanksgiving Holidays**
Dec. 2	**MAIS Teachers Convention** - Student Holiday
Dec. 19-Jan. 2	**Christmas Holidays**
Jan. 3	**First Day of Second Semester**
Jan. 16	**Martin Luther King Holiday**
Feb. 20	**Presidents Day Holiday**
March 13-17	**Spring Holidays**
April 7-10	**Easter Holidays**
April 24	**Awards Night** (7th-12th Grade)
April 25	**Awards Night** (4th-6th Grade)
April 27	**Athletic Recognition** - Varsity Sports
April 30	**Kindergarten Graduation Program**
May 7	**High School Graduation**
May 11	**Last Day of School** (K3-8th Grade) School will dismiss at 11:30 a.m.
May 12	**Last Day of School** (9th-11th Grade)
May 15-16	**Make-up Days** (if needed)

PHS 2022-2023 Calendar

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2022	
July 26-28	**New Teacher Orientation**
Aug. 1-4	**Staff Development**
Aug. 5	**First Day of School**
Sept. 5	**School Holiday**
Sept. 7	**Progress Reports**
Oct. 7	**End of 1st 9 weeks** (45 days)
Oct. 10	**School Holiday**
Oct. 11	**Elementary Parent Teacher Conference & Staff Development / Student Holiday**
Oct. 12	**Start of 2nd 9 Weeks**
Oct. 13	**Report Cards**
Nov. 9	**Progress Reports**
Nov. 21-25	**Thanksgiving Holidays**
Dec. 16-21	**Exams**
Dec. 21*	**Reduced Day** (60% day) / **End of 2nd 9 weeks** (46 days)
Dec. 22-30	**Christmas Holidays**
2023	
Jan. 2-6	**Christmas Holidays**
Jan. 9	**Staff Development/ Student Holiday**
Jan. 10	**Students Return / Start of 3rd 9 Weeks**
Jan. 12	**Report Cards**
Jan. 16	**School Holiday**
Feb. 8	**Progress Reports**
Feb. 20	**School Holiday**
March 10	**End of 3rd 9 Weeks** (42 days)
March 13-17	**Spring Break / School Holiday**
March 20	**Start of 4th 9 Weeks**
March 23	**Report Cards**
April 7	**School Holiday**
April 10	**School Holiday**
April 19	**Progress Reports**
May 22-25	**Exams**
May 25*	**Reduced Day** (60% day) / **Student Last Day / End of 4th 9 Weeks** (47 days)
May 26	**Last Teacher Day**

**Denotes Reduced Day*