

Buzz & Bloom



Celebrating Cicada Season

Explore, Engage, Eat:
Unveiling the Wonder of
Cicadas Through Creativity

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IMAGES FOR CICADA
CONTROL, CLEANUP,
COMPOST, AND
PARTY SUPPLIES!

*Very Good Supplies...
Out of the Box.*



PROTECTING YOUR GREENS FROM CICADAS
CICADA CLEANUP AND COMPOSTING
CICADA FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY





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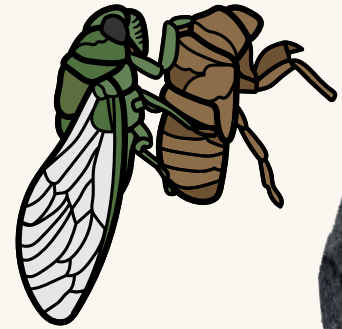
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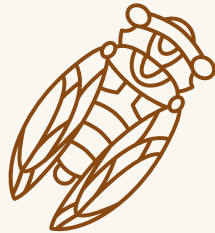
An outdoor movie night of Bug Blockbuster and Buzzy Shorts.



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Discover tips and products to protect your landscapes from cicadas, ensuring your green spaces remain vibrant and unscathed.

As we gear up for one of nature's most awe-inspiring events – the emergence of billions of cicadas across Illinois and beyond – it's crucial to consider the impact of these fascinating insects on our cherished green spaces. Cicadas, with their large bodies, distinctive sounds, and remarkable lifecycle, offer a rare spectacle. Yet, their presence raises concerns for the well-being of young and transplanted trees in our gardens and landscapes. This guide is your ally in navigating the cicada season, ensuring your trees remain healthy and thriving.

**Understanding Cicadas:
A Brief Overview**

Illinois is home to both annual (dog day) and periodical cicadas, with the latter emerging every 13 or 17 years in a synchronized dance that defies time. *(continued on next page)*

Safeguarding Your Greens

The Ultimate Guide to Protecting Your Trees from Cicadas



(continued from previous page)

Despite their sometimes alarming numbers and the loud serenades of the males, cicadas are not locusts and pose no threat to crops. However, their egg-laying practices can be a concern for young trees. The female cicadas make slits in the twigs and branches to lay their eggs, a process that can cause minor damage known as flagging. While established trees typically weather this phase without issue, younger trees might suffer more noticeable stress.

Protecting Your Trees: Strategies and Solutions

1. Timing Your Planting

Understanding the cicada's lifecycle offers a strategic advantage. With periodical cicadas emerging in cycles of 13 or 17 years, it may be wise to delay the planting of new trees or opt for more mature specimens if an emergence is imminent. Larger trees, with a trunk diameter of at least 2½ inches, are less likely to suffer significant damage from egg-laying activities.

2. Physical Barriers

For young or newly transplanted trees, physical barriers can provide effective protection. Wrapping the trunks and lower branches with fine netting or cheesecloth can prevent females from accessing the tree to lay eggs. Ensure the material is secured but allows room for growth, and remove it once the cicada season has passed to prevent damage to the tree.

3. Chemical Treatments

While insecticides can reduce cicada numbers, their effectiveness in preventing egg-laying damage is limited. The indiscriminate use of chemicals may also harm beneficial insect populations and the broader ecosystem. If you choose to use insecticides, select products specifically labeled for cicada control and apply them following the manufacturer's instructions carefully. However, remember that the best protection for young trees is often physical barriers rather than chemical treatments.

4. Cicada Cleanup and Compost

After the cicadas have completed their lifecycle, their bodies can be collected and added to your compost bin, providing a nutrient-rich material for your garden. This natural process turns the aftermath of the cicada emergence into a beneficial resource for your plants.

5. Embrace the Experience

Finally, while protecting your trees, take a moment to marvel at this natural phenomenon. The cicada emergence is a reminder of the intricate connections within our ecosystem and offers a unique opportunity for education and appreciation of the natural world.

The periodic emergence of cicadas is a natural event that, with preparation and understanding, doesn't have to spell disaster for your green spaces.

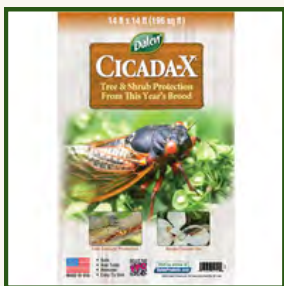
By employing strategic planting, utilizing physical barriers, and considering the limited role of chemical treatments, you can protect your trees from potential cicada damage. Remember, this is a temporary phase in the grand cycle of nature, and with the right measures, your trees will continue to grow and thrive, long after the cicadas have returned to the earth.

Female cicadas make slits in the twigs and branches to lay their eggs, a process that can cause minor damage, known as flagging.



Find Cicada Solutions at www.vgsupply.com - ask your retailer to order from us!

Products to try!



Cicada-X Tree & Shrub Netting



Dalen Pop-Net Mesh Netting



Dalen Tree Wrap



Bonide Eight 32 oz. RTS



After the Swarm

Tips for a Quick Cicada Cleanup and Composting

Navigate the post-cicada landscape with ease: From cleanup to composting, turn the aftermath into a boon for your garden's growth and vitality.



yes!

*The end of the cicada season brings with it a new challenge
– the cleanup!*

The cicada emergence is one of nature's most captivating events, transforming the landscape with the sights and sounds of billions of these insects. But what happens after the spectacle fades? The end of the cicada season brings with it a new challenge – the cleanup. As cicadas complete their lifecycle, many homeowners find their yards littered with cicada remains. While this might seem daunting, the cleanup process offers an opportunity to benefit your garden and contribute to the cycle of life. Here are practical tips for efficient cicada cleanup and turning those remnants into gold for your garden through composting.



Efficient Cleanup Strategies

1. Gather Your Tools

A rake, a shovel, and gloves are your best friends for this task. For larger properties, consider a leaf blower or a vacuum mulcher designed for outdoor use, which can significantly speed up the process. Remember, the goal is to collect the cicadas without harming your lawn or plants. See VG's Clean-up Tools at www.vgsupply.com

2. Timing is Everything

Begin your cleanup efforts once you notice a significant decrease in live cicada activity. This timing ensures you're not spending extra effort on repeat cleanups, as most cicadas will have completed their lifecycle.



3. Methodical Collection

Start from one end of your property and work your way systematically to the other. Collect cicadas in durable bags or directly into a compost bin if you're immediately starting the composting process. For those using a vacuum mulcher, periodically empty the contents into your compost setup.

Turning Cicadas into Compost

1. Why Compost Cicadas?

Cicadas are rich in nitrogen, a crucial nutrient for compost. Their addition to your compost pile can accelerate the decomposition process and enrich the resulting compost, providing a nutrient boost to your garden.

2. Setting Up Your Compost Bin

If you don't already have a compost bin, setting one up is straightforward. Choose a spot in your yard that's relatively dry and shaded. Your bin can be as simple as a contained pile on the ground, a commercially available compost bin, or a DIY construct made from pallets or wire mesh.



Find Cicada cleanup supplies at www.vgsupply.com - ask your retailer to order from us!

3. Layering Your Compost

For effective composting, balance green and brown materials. Green materials are nitrogen-rich, like cicada bodies, kitchen scraps, and grass clippings. Brown materials are carbon-rich, including leaves, straw, and shredded paper. Aim for a roughly equal mix of greens and browns by volume. Start with a brown layer, add cicadas and other greens, then top with another brown layer. This balance helps avoid odors and accelerates decomposition.

4. Maintenance

Turn your compost pile every few weeks to aerate it, which helps break down materials faster. Keep the pile moist, but not wet, to support the activity of the decomposers.

5. Safety First

While cicadas are not harmful, always wear gloves when handling them or working with compost to prevent any potential irritation or allergic reactions.

The aftermath of a cicada emergence doesn't have to be a headache. With the right tools and approach, cleaning up can be efficient and even beneficial to your garden. By composting cicada remains, you're not only tidying up; you're also creating a rich, natural fertilizer that supports the cycle of growth in your garden. Embrace this final phase of the cicada lifecycle as an opportunity to contribute to the health of your green spaces, turning the end of one lifecycle into the beginning of another.



Centurion Polyester Pop Up Bags



Centurion Working Gloves



Flexrake Lawn Rakes



Heavy Duty Pro Contractor Bags

Cicada Cuisine

Exploring Edible Insects Through Delicious Recipes

Cicadas & Wine anyone?



WineGrasp

As the cicada season concludes, leaving behind memories of their songs and sights, it presents an unconventional yet fascinating culinary opportunity. Eating insects, or entomophagy, is a practice embraced worldwide, offering sustainable and nutritious food sources. Cicadas, with their rich nutritional profile and abundance, make for an intriguing ingredient in the adventurous cook's kitchen. This blog explores the potential of cicada cuisine, offering tips for collecting, preparing, and cooking these insects, along with some delectable recipes to start your journey into the world of edible insects.

THEY TASTE LIKE ALMONDS!



Safe Collection & Preparation

Timing Your Harvest

For the best flavor and texture, collect cicadas early in the morning shortly after they've molted and are still soft. This stage is when cicadas are most tender, making them ideal for cooking.

Cleaning and Preparing

Before cooking, cicadas should be thoroughly cleaned. Boil them briefly to sanitize, then drain and cool. This process also makes it easier to remove the wings and legs, which can be tough and are generally not eaten.

Nutritional Benefits

Cicadas offer a high-protein, low-fat alternative to traditional meat sources, rich in vitamins and minerals. Including insects in your diet can be a step towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly culinary practice.





Cicada Stir-Fry

Ingredients: Cleaned cicadas, vegetables of choice (bell peppers, onions, snap peas), soy sauce, garlic, ginger, and sesame oil.

Instructions: Stir-fry the garlic and ginger in sesame oil until fragrant. Add the vegetables, cooking until just tender. Introduce the cicadas, stir-frying until they're heated through. Finish with soy sauce and serve over rice.

Cicada Tacos

Ingredients: Cleaned cicadas, taco shells, cabbage slaw, avocado, cilantro, lime, and your favorite salsa.

Instructions: Sauté cicadas in a pan with a bit of oil until they start to crisp. Assemble your tacos with cicadas, slaw, sliced avocado, and a sprinkle of cilantro. Add a squeeze of lime and a dollop of salsa for a fusion of flavors.



Candied Cicadas

Ingredients: Cleaned cicadas, sugar, water, and cinnamon.

Instructions: Boil cicadas in a mixture of sugar, water, and a hint of cinnamon until they become candied. Allow to cool and harden for a sweet, crunchy snack.




Cicada- palooza

**Throwing the Ultimate Backyard Bash to
Celebrate Cicada Season**

As the cicadas descend upon us with their once-in-a-seventeen-year concert, why not embrace their cacophonous arrival with a bit of humor and style?

explore





Welcome to Cicada-palooza, the backyard bash that celebrates the most buzz-worthy guests of the season. Here's how to throw a party that will have your neighbors chirping with delight, proving that when life gives you cicadas, it's time to party!

Invitations: Start with a Buzz

Send out invitations that playfully acknowledge the cicada invasion. Think "You're Invited to a Once in a 17-Year Event!" or "Join Us for a Night of Cicada Serenades." Bonus points for glow-in-the-dark invites that mimic the bioluminescence of these night-time revelers.

Decor: Set the Scene

Transform your backyard into a cicada-themed paradise. Hang cicada-shaped lanterns from trees, use tablecloths adorned with insect motifs, and scatter plush cicada toys around seating areas for a touch of whimsy. Don't forget a designated "molting" corner with cicada shell decorations for that authentic touch!

Dress Code:

Come as You Are (or as a Cicada)

Encourage guests to embrace the theme with cicada or insect-inspired attire. Whether it's antenna headbands, wings, or simply donning green and brown, the goal is to celebrate the season with a nod to our arthropod amigos.

Soundtrack: Let the Cicadas Sing

What's a Cicada-palooza without the music of the guests of honor? Mix recordings of cicada songs with your favorite summer tunes for a playlist that's both amusing and atmospheric.

For the brave, a "sing like a cicada" karaoke contest could be the highlight of the evening.

Menu: A Taste of the Season

While cicada-themed dishes are a daring addition, you can also opt for cicada-inspired mocktails and snacks that play on the theme without the crunch. Think "Cicada Wings" (spicy chicken wings), "Bug Juice" cocktails, and "Exoskeleton Crunch" (tortilla chips with guacamole). For the adventurous, a "try an edible cicada" challenge might tickle (or terrify) the taste buds.

Activities: Fun and Games

Create cicada-themed games for entertainment. "Pin the Wings on the Cicada," a "Cicada Shell Hunt," and "Cicada Call Competitions" can offer fun for all ages. Set up a photo booth with insect-themed props to capture the memories of this unique celebration.

Party Favors:

Send Them Home with a Buzz

Thank guests for coming with cicada-themed party favors. Seed packets to plant trees for future cicadas, cicada-shaped cookies, and "I Survived Cicada-palooza 2024" buttons or magnets make for memorable parting gifts.

Cicada-palooza isn't just a party; it's a way to turn an unusual natural phenomenon into an opportunity for community and laughter. As these remarkable insects fill the air with their once-in-a-generation concert, let's celebrate the wonder and humor of nature together. Here's to a party

that's seventeen years in the making —may your Cicada-palooza be as unforgettable as the insects it honors! So, grab your antennae, prep your best cicada serenade, and let's make Cicada-palooza the highlight of the season. After all, it'll be another seventeen years before we can do it all over again.

Keep bugs out of your cup!



Coverwear Drink Tops



Check out the Cicada-palooza playlist we made just for you!



Cicada Cinema Under the Stars:

A Night of Bug Blockbusters and Buzzy Shorts

As the cicada season reaches its crescendo, why not cap it off with an event that celebrates not just these remarkable insects, but also the art of storytelling? Introducing Cicada Cinema Under the Stars: an open-air movie night that combines the thrill of cinema with the unique backdrop of the cicada symphony. This event isn't just about watching films; it's about creating an immersive experience that celebrates nature, community, and creativity. Here's how to make your Cicada Cinema the talk of the town.





Capture the memories

Setting the Scene

Choose a spacious backyard or a local park (with permission, of course) as your cinema venue. As dusk settles and the cicadas begin their nightly serenade, your outdoor screen illuminates, offering a once-in-a-17-year cinematic experience. String lights and lanterns mimic the soft glow of fireflies, enhancing the magical ambiance.

The Feature Presentations

Curate a selection of films and shorts that pay homage to the tiny titans of the season or explore themes of nature, transformation, and the cycles of life. From documentaries about the marvels of the insect world to animated classics and bug-themed blockbusters, your lineup will have something for every taste. Don't forget to include a few cicada-specific documentaries or shorts to educate and entertain your guests about the stars of the season.

Interactive Intermissions

Between films, engage your audience with cicada trivia contests, storytelling sessions, or a guest speaker who can share fascinating insights about these insects and their impact on the ecosystem. These interactive breaks add depth to the evening, making it an educational experience as well as an entertaining one.

Bug-Out Snack Bar

No movie night is complete without snacks! Offer a mix of traditional movie treats and cicada-themed eats. Think "Popcorn Balls of Fire" (spicy popcorn), "Chirpy Churros," and for the daring, a tasting station with gourmet-prepared edible cicadas. For refreshments, serve "Bug Juice" and "Cicada Sodas" alongside a selection of teas and coffees for a cozy night under the stars.

Cozy Comforts

Invite guests to bring their own blankets, lawn chairs, and pillows, or provide some yourself to ensure everyone enjoys the movie in maximum comfort. Set up a few "cozy corners" with extra blankets and insect repellent to keep the vibes relaxed and bug-free.

Get Comfy-cozy!



Couch Pouch

A Night to Remember

Capture the memories with a "Cicada Selfie Station" featuring fun, themed props and backdrops. Encourage guests to share their photos and experiences on social media, spreading the buzz about your unique event.

10 Family-Friendly Movies to Watch:

- "A Bug's Life" (1998)
- "Antz" (1998)
- "James and the Giant Peach" (1996)
- "Bee Movie" (2007)
- "The Ant Bully" (2006)
- "Charlotte's Web" (2006)
- "Epic" (2013)
- "Microcosmos" (1996)
- "Minuscule: Valley of the Lost Ants" (2013)
- "Arachnophobia" (1990)



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