

## Termite Front Takes Nation By “Swarm”

### *Termite Forecast Alerts Homeowners To The Habits Of These Costly Invaders*

(NAPSA)—Forecasters for Bayer Premise® are predicting the annual termite front will move steadily across the nation now through May, with these hungry bugs leaving an estimated \$2 billion in damages in their wake.

Each spring, around the nation, termite colonies send out what are called swarmers to ensure the establishment of new colonies. While Southern states have longer swarm seasons, homeowners in that area are not the only ones at risk. Each year termites infest 1.5 million homes across the country, causing more damage than fires, storms or earthquakes combined. These pests can silently eat their way through your home, and the damage they do is not covered by most homeowners' insurance policies.

Bayer Corporation, a trusted name in personal health can now be trusted with the health of your home by helping to prepare homeowners for termite swarm season. Bayer, makers of Premise Termiticide, has developed a national termite forecast indicating when termite swarms begin and how long they will last. The forecast, developed by combining termite research and weather patterns, is available at [www.nobugs.com](http://www.nobugs.com).

“With such a valuable resource like the termite forecast, homeowners can be better prepared for swarm season with the help of their local pest management professional and an effective termiticide, such as Premise,” said Dr. Phillip Koehler, entomologist at the University of Florida.

In addition to knowing when termites are at their peak in your area, early detection and prevention are the keys to protecting your home from termite damage. Below are some essential steps you can take to make your home less



attractive to termites:

- Ensure that you have an annual inspection conducted by a pest management professional.
- Make sure there are no cracks in the concrete foundation. Termites can squeeze through an opening as small as 1/64<sup>th</sup> of an inch wide, which is about the thickness of one sheet of paper.
- Don't keep firewood, lumber or other wood products stacked or stored against the foundation or within the crawl space.
- Make sure gutters are functioning properly and keep water away from eaves. All downspouts should drain freely and direct water away from the foundation. Splash blocks under faucets should drain away from the house.
- Be sure that the ground around your foundation slopes away from the structure so water does not pool or flow around the foundation.

If a termite infestation has been established, quick action is key. Contact a local pest management professional (PMP) and ask for Bayer Premise, which kills termites immediately, draining the colony's strength.

To find out more information on when the termite swarms will invade your area, visit [www.nobugs.com](http://www.nobugs.com), or talk to your local pest management professional.