

Pest Identification Guide For Pests In and Around Buildings

IMPORTANCE OF INSECT LIFE CYCLE

Different insects have different forms of life cycles. The two most common forms are gradual and complete metamorphosis. The life cycle is important in managing insects because the habitat, habits and appearance of an insect may change dramatically through the course of a life cycle, depending on the form of life cycle.

Insects with gradual metamorphosis go through three life stages: egg, nymph and adult. The nymph stage generally resembles the adult stage, and insects in both stages usually are found in similar habitats, showing similar habits and eating similar food. Managing insects with gradual metamorphosis generally does not require different tactics to target immature and adult stages.

Insects with complete metamorphosis go through four life stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. Larva and adult stages have very different appearances and often live in different habitats, showing different habits and eating different food. The pupal stage usually does not crawl or feed, and, depending on the species, may be resistant to some methods of management. Managing insects with complete metamorphosis may require different tactics to target immature and adult stages.