

## A BETTER MOUSE TRAP

No, there isn't a better mouse or, for that matter, rat trap. Rodents in general have been dodging humans for thousands of years, aptly being able to co-inhabit the same space, and at the same time taking advantage of you at every turn, eating your food and living in your homes. Besides being a hungry uninvited guest, they also spread disease and filth. The bottom line is, you don't want them anywhere near your family. With the aftermath of Katrina, rodents, especially rats, have made a stand for **your** territory. Sewer rats were forced out of the sewer and subsurface drain systems and into your gardens and under your house slabs. Roof rats were forced out of trees and shrubs and into your attics.

There are numerous ways to dissuade these pests, but it takes some thought and real effort on your part. Here are things for you to do around your house that will help:

- 1) Don't leave pet food out for more than a couple of hours.
  - 2) Store pet food in a metal container like a new garbage can.
  - 3) Keep your refuse in a closed container, don't leave the lid off.
  - 4) Keep your grass cut weekly.
  - 5) Don't leave building material / debris laying around. Get rid of it within a couple of days.
  - 6) Cut trees back away from the house, especially limbs overhanging the roof.
  - 7) Make sure that holes in the house are patched. Pay attention to openings where pipes pass through outside walls.
  - 8) Make sure roof vents are screened.
  - 9) Don't leave food out overnight in the kitchen.
  - 10) Use poisons according to label directions, don't let children and pets have access to it.
- And finally
- 11) Use poisons according to label directions, don't let children and pets have access to it !!!!!!!

Submitted by  
JOE AZZARELLO  
Board Certified Entomologist  
Dial One Franklynn Pest Control