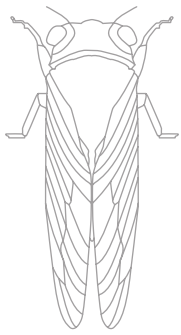




CICADAS

2024





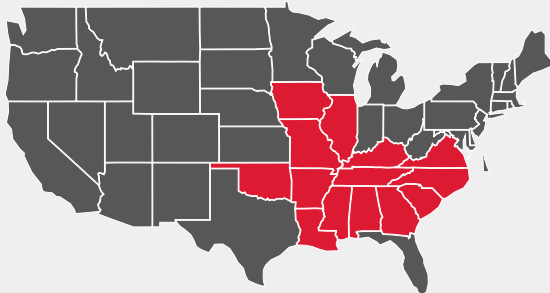
CICADAS 2024 — ORKIN FACT SHEET

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL WITH THE CICADAS THIS YEAR?

In May, two different broods of periodic cicadas will emerge at the same time for the first time in more than 220 years.

This double emergence coincides with the emergence of annual cicadas as well.

After 13 years, Brood XIX is set to emerge in 14 states across the Southeast and Midwest. Four species of cicadas are included in this brood.



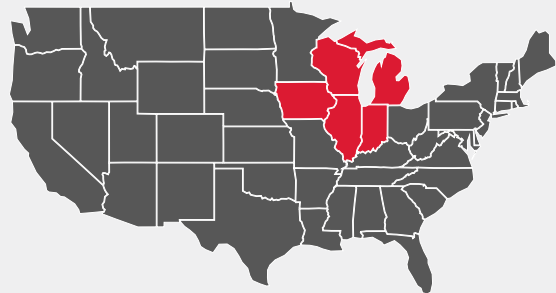
14

States

4

Species

The 17-year Brood XIII will emerge in five Midwestern states: Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana. There are three species in this brood.



5

States

3

Species

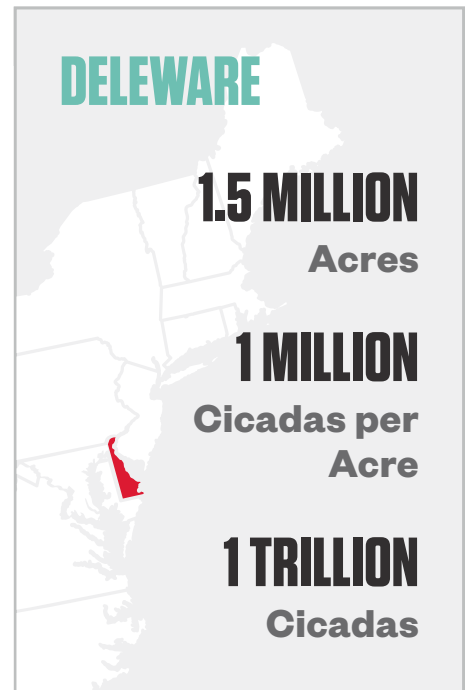
The double emergence — when all seven species of cicadas will be out at the same time — won't happen again until 2245. **What's more, Illinois and Indiana will have overlap with both broods plus annual cicadas.**



WILL IT REALLY BE TRILLIONS? WHY?

It's actually extremely hard to estimate the population sizes of periodical cicadas, for a number of reasons. There is a [frequently-cited statistic](#) that says periodic cicadas can exceed a million per acre, but it's based on data from the 1956 emergence of Brood XIII in Raccoon Grove, IL. So, for example, the state of Delaware is roughly 1.5 million acres. If we accept the million cicadas per acre statistic, and if the total combined area of a periodical cicada emergence is roughly the size of Delaware, then more than a trillion cicadas will be involved.

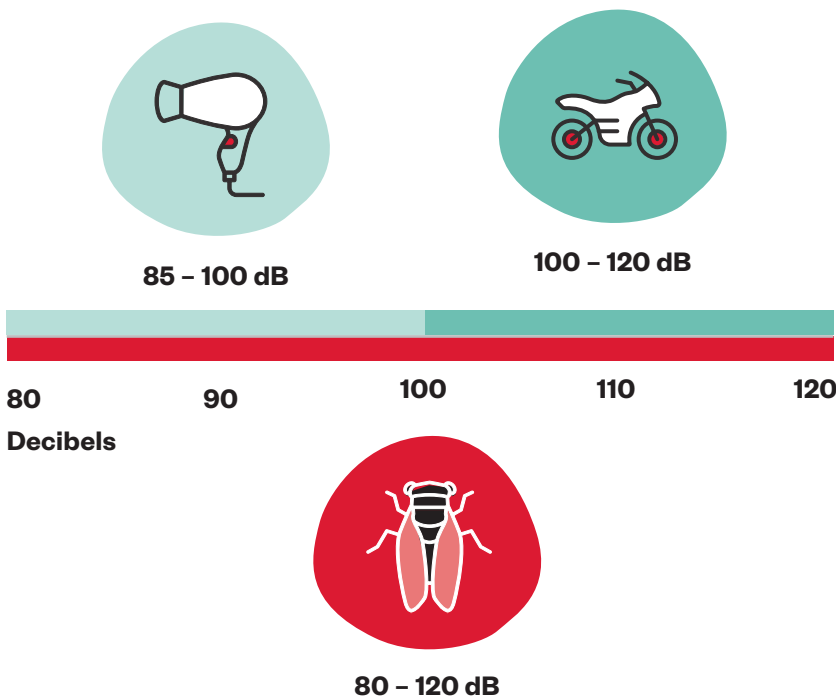
In truth, insects often come in large numbers, which is not surprising. What's special about periodic cicadas has more to do with the predictable and synchronous emergence of large numbers of adults — and their near absence during the years in between.



HOW LOUD WILL THEY GET?

Cicadas can produce sound levels ranging from around 80 to 120 decibels (dB) when measured at close range. For example, a hairdryer or subway train can be between 85–100dB. A motorcycle or bulldozer range between 100–120dB.

The cicada chorus will be very loud in Illinois and Indiana. The serious sound will start about a week and a half after you first notice them and last about two weeks more. Only males call, and they are trying to attract females. Each species has their own song.



References:

1. [The 2024 Periodical Cicada Emergence](#). UCONN.edu. Retrieved 10 May 2024.

WHAT AREA WILL SEE THE MOST CICADAS?

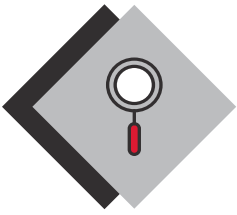
Illinois and Indiana will have overlap with both broods plus annual cicadas. You're most likely to find them on the outskirts of cities. From an overall perspective, some areas and counties will have more than others. The University of Connecticut has a cicada tracking system, and there are also cicada hunter apps — there's a whole community of people waiting for the emergence!

Once they emerge, the cicadas will mate, molt and then die, leaving behind a new generation of larva that will bury themselves in the soil and lay dormant until the brood's next cycle. They only last about a month above ground.

WHEN WILL THEY EMERGE?

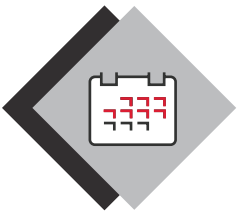
For cicadas to emerge, the top eight inches of soil need to be at least 64 degrees Fahrenheit. Then, they are likely to emerge after a warm rain. Not all cicadas emerge, and some will emerge late. This period will last for 4–6-week intervals continuously throughout the spring and summer.





WHAT ARE CICADAS, ACTUALLY?

Contrary to what they look like, cicadas are not locusts; they belong to different families. And even though both insects arrive in large numbers, cicadas do not eat plants like locusts; they feed on plant fluids, usually from below ground roots and young twigs. Therefore, cicadas don't present a threat to property or plant life. Try to avoid killing them. Once they molt, keep your eyes open for their molted skins on the trunks of trees or on the ground — very cool!



HOW LONG DO THEY LIVE?

Once the periodic cicadas emerge from the ground, they'll be around for four to six weeks. Periodical cicadas are the longest living insect that occurs in the region north of Mexico, however most species living north of Mexico spend more of their life underground than they do above ground.



ARE THEY DANGEROUS TO ME, MY FAMILY OR MY PROPERTY?

Cicadas are neither invasive nor a threat to humans, animals or property. They do not bite or sting. They don't attack plants, people, animals or pets. Additionally, cicadas are not considered to be "pests" as they are not attracted to light.

Cicada killer wasps, however, can emerge to attack cicadas before they emerge from the ground, and when provoked, these wasps can sting humans.



IS THIS EMERGENCE CONNECTED TO GLOBAL WARMING?

No, not really. This year's double emergence is a line-up of cycles and location. However, climate-related indicators do help periodical cicadas tell time, so it stands to reason that with warmer temperatures and unpredictable weather patterns could stress and confuse cicadas into emerging off-cycle. If this happens, the cicadas that emerge early or late will be outliers and lack the safety provided by trillions of friends. They will be more vulnerable to predators.





WHAT EATS CICADAS? WHO ARE THEIR NATURAL PREDATORS?

Birds, bats, wasps, spiders, and certain flies all regularly feed on cicadas. In times of large emergences, bears, fish, racoons and most insect-eating animals will take advantage of the cyclical feast.

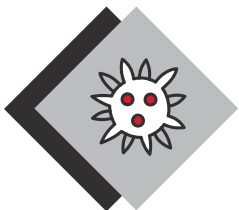
When cicadas emerge, cicada killer wasps will prey on them. While not aggressive by nature, these wasps will sting if aggravated. Since cicada killers don't live in colonies and build their nests underground, they are considered solitary wasps. The burrow may seem pretty simple on the surface, but there is a lot of construction done below ground. The burrow is dug about a foot deep with cells for the eggs that will become the next generation. Other than seeing a cicada killer, which is an awesome, somewhat daunting sight, the presence of excavated soil in the shape of a "U" at the burrow entrance means a construction project is in progress.

Some of the likely burrowing sites are:

- ◆ Edges of concrete slabs
- ◆ Golf course sand traps
- ◆ Lawns
- ◆ Sandy areas around playground equipment
- ◆ Sparsely vegetated slopes

WILL WE SEE MORE CICADA-KILLING WASPS AS A RESULT OF THE SUPER EMERGENCE?

The cicada killer wasps we will see this year are the result of last year's population of cicadas. So, next year's wasp population will potentially be higher due to this year's population of cicadas.



WHAT ABOUT THIS CICADA DISEASE I KEEP READING ABOUT?

At some point during their growth cycle, some periodic cicadas are exposed to the spores of a fungus, *Massospora cicadina*; this fungus only impacts periodic cicadas. The fungus attacks the insects' reproductive organs and manipulates them into spreading the spores to other cicadas through the mating process.

