

CICADAS

Ready or not... Here they come! The invasion of thousands upon thousands of cicadas will hit Park Hills in late May. Once the ground soil reaches a temperature of 64 degrees, there's no turning back. At first you will see the emergence of nymphs from the ground.

Soon after, they will lose their shells and fly. Although cicadas are harmless to humans, they could cause some trouble for small trees and shrubs. Here's what you need to know to protect your yard during the 2021 winged invasion:

Suggested materials - Fine netting such as tulle (bridal netting) or cheesecloth, twine or strips of cloth, metal fasteners or clothespins. Do not use any kind of heavy material, such as a sheet or tarp that can keep out sunlight.

1. Cover the plant loosely with netting before the cicadas emerge. If you wait, you may trap cicadas inside. Each tree will need slightly more than twice its height. For example, for a 6-foot tree, buy about 14 feet of netting.
2. Secure the netting to the trunk in order to prevent the insect from getting inside the covering. Tie up the bottom with twine or strips of cloth.
3. Cover the smaller branches -- cicadas favor those about the size of a pencil -- and secure the sides with metal clips, clothespins or staples. Cicadas can fly "around" any protection that is just at the base of the tree.
4. Remove the netting once the cicadas have died off -- usually by early July.

More Tips: The Park Hills Tree Board holds their annual seedling give-way in the Spring. You may want to consider waiting to put any seedlings, small trees, or shrubs in the ground until after the cicadas are gone. Instead, put them in a pot until early July and transplant them after the invasion.

Lastly, do not use pesticides. Chemicals will not stop the cicada emergence, and again - the insects do not harm humans.

Information in this article provided by *The Morton Arboretum* - Chicago, Illinois