Armadillos and Asian cockroaches are active at night

**Q.** I’ve not found a way to rid my lawn of an armadillo. It digs all over the lawn at night. I’ve tried setting a small animal trap baited with rotten meat or vegetable peelings with no success. How can I rid my lawn of this pest?

**A.** As you’ve experienced, armadillos can be difficult to catch in a trap. But short of shooting the animal, which is a control option, trapping is usually the preferred method. There are no poisons or repellants that work. First, to have success with a trap, it must be the right size. Make sure the trap is large enough to catch an armadillo. Secondly, change the bait you’re using. Use overripe bananas or apples or place fishing worms (earthworms) in a mesh bag, stocking hose or other small container with small holes so the armadillo can smell them but so that the worms can’t crawl away. Thirdly, if you haven’t caught the armadillo after several nights, place the trap in an area of recent digging. Fourthly, it helps to "funnel" the armadillo into the trap. This can be accomplished by placing the trap alongside a fence or wall and then place a 2 X 4 or 2 X 6 board on the other side of the trap positioned to create a "funnel" so that the walkway to the trap becomes narrower as the armadillo gets closer to the opening. Fifthly, place debris such as leaves or straw on the floor of the trap to increase the likelihood of the armadillo entering. The armadillo may not walk in if the floor of the trap feels foreign such as a metal floor. Be persistent. Here are web pages with more information. [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/UW082](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/UW082), [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/UW070](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/UW070)

**Q.** I’m seeing small flying roaches that come into my house at night. What are they, where did they come from and how can I control them?

**A.** These are Asian cockroaches, which are native to Asia. I started seeing them in our area about 6 or 7 years ago. They live outside in mulch, lawns, etc. They occasionally fly indoors at night, attracted to lights. They don’t live long indoors, though, because it’s not humid enough. Insecticide baits (labeled for roach control) that contain fipronil or hydramethylnon applied to areas outside where the roaches are found such as mulched plant beds provide the best control. Make sure to read and follow the product’s label directions. Most, if not all, baits are quickly broken down by rain so retreatment may be necessary periodically following frequent rains. More information is available online. [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/MG202](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/MG202), [http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/urban/roaches/asian_cockroach.htm](http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/urban/roaches/asian_cockroach.htm)

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September 12, 2006