

## Fleas

Fleas are particularly annoying to people and pets, especially during spring and early summer when their numbers tend to increase dramatically. To keep fleas out of your home, control fleas on your pet and regularly clean pet sleeping areas.

There are a number of very effective and safe products for flea control on your pet. Remember to supplement pet treatment with regular cleaning of your home and periodic combing with a pet flea comb to detect new infestations.

Outdoor treatment is rarely needed, but if your pet regularly sleeps outside and flea numbers are high, these areas can be treated with a spray containing pyriproxyfen. If possible, open sleeping areas to sunlight by removing low hanging vegetation. Immature fleas are unlikely to survive in areas with exposure to sunlight.

Inside your home, vacuum and launder areas where your pet rests to avoid flea buildup. If you have a major flea problem, treat your pet and follow these steps.

- Concentrate treatment in heavily infested areas.

- Wash throw rugs and pet bedding.

- Vacuum upholstered furniture, cleaning under cushions and crevices.

- Vacuum carpets, especially beneath furniture. Always throw away vacuum cleaner bags after cleaning up fleas.

- Spray your house. Vacuum regularly over the next 2 weeks to remove any adult fleas that emerge.

Remember to follow directions on all pesticides.

For more gardening information go to [cecolusa.ucanr.edu](http://cecolusa.ucanr.edu)