

What's All The Buzz About?

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This year will mark the recurrence of the Magicicadas. Multiple states from the Midwest and the Southeast, including Ohio, will be visited by cicadas. Cicadas are large insects who have an extremely loud buzz which



can be clearly heard. You may be wondering why you see cicadas around even outside of the designated year they are supposed to arrive, this is because cicadas still may be around every year. However, every 17 years there is an uproar of the amount of cicadas. You have probably seen the shell of a cicada stuck

on the side of a tree or a house before, expect to see a lot more throughout the year and specifically in the summer.

Cicadas are not harmful, so do not panic if one lands on you or many are flying around you. Cicadas cannot bite or sting, the only thing harmful about them is the loud noises in which they produce. The cicadas which are present every 17 years have a low pitched humming noise which can reach up to 100 decibels. The sound produced by the periodical cicadas can be compared to a car stereo being played at max volume. Some cicadas swarm lawn mowers or other power tools which resemble the noise produced by cicadas. So during the summer do not be surprised if while you are mowing the lawn cicadas start to appear all around you, just remember they have no intentions of harming you.

You may be wondering what is the purpose of the cicada, well besides the fact of the loud noises they produce, cicadas can be very

beneficial. According to the National Wildlife Federation “Cicadas are mostly beneficial. They prune mature trees, aerate the soil, and once they die, their bodies serve as an important source of nitrogen for growing trees.” Even though cicadas can be annoying they do serve a beneficial role in the environment, therefore, try to refrain from purposely harming these insects.