

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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**A HOT, DRY SUMMER is a boon for pest-control services.**

Swarms of insects crawl inside homes and offices seeking water, especially in the drought-stricken East. "Our business is up in both volume and profit this year," says Joe Silvestrini, president of Pest Control Technicians Inc., Norristown, Pa. Particularly nettlesome have been carpenter ants and pavement ants, says Ralph Blumenthal, operations manager at Atlantic Exterminating Co. in Kennebunkport, Maine. "I've been doing this for 28 years and it's probably the worst ant year I've seen," Mr. Blumenthal says.

Fleas and mosquitoes are both down. But dry earth has limited fungal disease that normally inhibits such insects as earwigs and millipedes, says George Rotramel, a visiting associate professor of urban ecology at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

*Hungry yellow jackets "are going to be extremely aggressive this fall, flying into the openings in people's Coke cans, that kind of thing," the educator warns.*