

WIN a handheld Agrilaser in our competition



What caused this damage?

Our thanks to Dave Archer from DKA Pest Control in Devon for sending in this picture of extensive damage to a Devon longhouse wall. He asked us if we had any idea what might have caused it, we hadn't. We were amazed when he explained so we thought we'd test our readers' knowledge.

What caused this and what action would you recommend?

Send your answers to: editor@pestmagazine.co.uk and be sure to include your name and a contact telephone number and/or email address. Entries must be with the editor by midnight on 30 September 2016.

Distributors PestFix have kindly donated a handheld Agrilaser for the winner. And there are six dynamo **Pest** torches on offer for the runners-up. All correct entries will be put into a prize draw. The winners will be announced in the next issue of **Pest** magazine.

Withdrawal of bird gel repellents

Having become a successful part of the pest management bird scene in the UK, it came as something of a shock to hear the news that all of the bird repellent gels are to be withdrawn from the UK market – hopefully only for a short time.

The four products involved are Bird Free, To Nature Bird Free Gel, Ornoway Bird Gel and Avigo Chilli Pepper Gel. These will be available for sale up until 30 October 2016 and must be used up by 30 April 2017.

The reason for this withdrawal is regulatory. Up until now they have been sold via a derogation under the Biocidal Products Directive but this has now expired. The products must now be re-registered as part of the EU-wide Review Programme of the Biocidal Product Regulation.

As readers are aware, achieving this requires a significant investment of time and money. Whilst predicting any timeframe which involves regulatory clearance is fraught with uncertainty, Barretine, the manufacturers of Ornoway Bird Gel, predict registration this autumn, whilst Killgerm mention a relaunch later in 2017 for Bird Free.



Is this a one-off?



David Lodge from south London-based Beaver Pest Control sent in this amazing picture taken by one of the company's technicians, Marius Amariei. What's the chance of two field mice being caught simultaneously in the same trap? Certainly this is proof that the NARA non-toxic lures are attractive.

By way of background, David explains that this photo was taken at the site of a bakery in Ham, south west London that backs onto fields and the river Thames. Beaver had been looking after the site for six months. Unfortunately, the customer would not follow advice to fit brush strips to the bottom of the doors to a store. Field mice were continuing to gain access and contaminating the store.

David commented: "I think that the practice that we have used here proves that being in line with the CRUU Code does not hinder control whilst protecting the environment and non-target species. Had we used rodenticides the field mice were likely to have died outside and potentially contributed to secondary poisoning."