



The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord,  
the earth and all who live on it are his. --Psalm 24:1

# NOTES

4-15-16

**Did God create PESTS?** According to the Genesis Creation, God said that everything he made was "Good." Apparently the "human" response to some of those created things is "Good Grief!" Perhaps we need to look at creation through God's eyes, because an amazing thing is about to happen in Ohio.



As temperatures warm, billions of Brood V periodical 17 year cicadas will begin to crawl out of the ground in Ohio between May and June. The insects will complete their lifecycles after calling for, and finding, mates, then die after about a month or a month and a half. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, three different species make up 2016's "Brood V;" *Magicicada septendecim* (L.), *M. cassini* (Fisher), and *M. septendecula* (Alexander and Moore).



When the cicadas eventually come out, the swarms are so large that they create a big racket and can be as dense as 1.5 million bugs per acre. Ground temperatures will need to hit 64 degrees before cicadas emerge to mate and lay their eggs in live tree twigs. Then it will be another 17 years — 2033 — before the offspring come out again.

These 17 year cicadas will appear this spring over large portions of Ohio and West Virginia during the scheduled Brood V emergence. This brood is the largest that occurs in the affected states and was last seen in 1999. It will also emerge in the southwest corner of Pennsylvania, the

westernmost county of Maryland, and the northwest corner of Virginia.

Periodical cicadas are also called 17-year "locusts" because their life cycle takes 17 years to complete. This is a misnomer, because true locusts are grasshoppers, not cicadas. Cicadas are grouped into different broods with each brood appearing during a different year cycle. Due to staggered development, broods emerge somewhere almost every year, and some areas may even have more than one emergence during a 17-year cycle.

Adult periodical cicadas have red eyes and dark bodies and measure a little over 1½ inches long. They are not capable of biting or stinging. Adults live about 4 to 6 weeks during which their sole purpose is to mate and lay eggs, then they drop to the ground and die. Males are responsible for the droning noise as they call for mates. Cicada "songs" are heard from early morning to late evening as long as adults are present. Periodical cicadas should not be confused with annual (dog day) cicadas that are larger in size, mostly green, with black eyes, and appear each summer in small numbers.



Adult cicadas do not feed. Damage occurs when the female cicada cuts two parallel slits in small twigs where she lays 24 to 28 eggs. Sometimes a continuous slit 2 to 3 inches long is formed as she slowly makes her way up a twig. The slits cause "flagging", or breakage, to the tips of the branches. The eggs hatch in 6 weeks, and young cicadas, or nymphs, fall to the ground where they burrow into the soil and spend the next 17 years feeding on small roots. At the end of this time, usually in May and early June, nymphs crawl out of the soil and climb up tree trunks or other vertical objects where they shed their nymphal skins and emerge as adults.

Are they "PESTS?" -- perhaps in many human eyes, but in my mind at least, not in God's eyes! My advice? Behold the wonder of it all. --CC Fry, Creation Care Advocate, ccseven@embarqmail.com