

BugPellent Cylinder Party Time

Our horses battled for position directly under this aromatic fly deterrent

When a new herbal fly repellent, available in several different forms, crossed our desk, we couldn't wait to give the product a try, so we sent BugPellent to barns in California, New York and Tennessee.

BugPellent is a blend of nine essential plant-based aromatic oils. And aromatic it is, whether spray, gel or hanging cylinder.

We didn't expect to be wowed by the cylindrical solid — the one that hangs from a beam in your barn — but we were wrong. Even if it didn't repel a single fly (it does), the smell alone would make you want it.

Our testers praised its effectiveness. Oddly enough, the horses also weighed in here with their approval: No matter where it was hung, they stood under it. One barn owner hung the cylinders in two run-in sheds. In the smaller 12x15 shed, the smell barely diminished during the test period and not a single fly was seen in the shed during that period. In the much larger shed, where it was placed at one end, there were frequent scuffles for position under

the cylinder, as evidenced by the churned up footing and manure. By Day 20, the smell was barely noticeable and détente had returned to the shed.

One tester bought cylinders as gifts for friends with run-in facilities without telling them what to expect. Both friends raved about the smell and reported, "Every time I look outside, both horses are standing underneath it." The clincher was that the cylinders are reuseable; refill packs are available and priced affordably.

The fly spray was effective up to four hours. We noticed it didn't do much for biting horse flies, but it is a natural-ingredient product and it's all-out chemical warfare when it comes to biting flies.

The gel form is designed for your horse's face, ears, legs — areas difficult to spray. However, our horses didn't want it on their faces, pulling back wide-eyed when we attempted to apply it. We speculated it was the overwhelming scent, but the horses weren't talking.

Still, the gel turned out to be a good

choice for ears, crest, belly line and tail head to discourage gnats, black flies and "no-see-ums." Applied thickly, it is also a physical barrier. We like gels especially for sweet itch.

What We Found

At less than \$20 — and with that wonderful aroma — the hanging cylinder is a clear winner and belongs in every barn. Plus, horses love being in its vicinity. www.bugpellent.com. Contact your retailer for purchase. ■



This mule teases his pals for securing a premium position below the BugPellent cylinder.

Attack of the Killer Mosquitoes

2015 is forecast to be a slam-dunk, great year for bugs

You probably didn't know June 21-27 was National Mosquito Control Awareness Week. We didn't care either, but our little ears did perk forward at the news that this year is bringing us a bumper crop of mosquitoes. While horses don't object to them as much as they do to biting flies, the constant mosquito bites will cause itching and unsightly bumps and, unless the horse is properly vaccinated (EEE, WEE, West Nile), he could also contract a disease.

Nearly every fly product on the market states it will repel mosquitoes, but look for these ingredients on the bottle label:

- Permethrin
- Citronella
- Pyrethroid, such as Prallethrin
- Pyrethrins.

You'll likely see piperonyl butoxide, which is a synergist, too. Cedar also repels mosquitoes, but we've seen a number of horses and people react poorly to its use.

In our barns, you'll find UltraShield EX, Mosquito Halt, Pyranha, and Repel-X.

There are a number of fly sheets on the market that state they have mesh too small for a mosquito to get through, but a determined mosquito can find a tiny unprotected spot. It's impossible to cover your horse from ear to tail.

Remove standing water on your property, such as persistent puddles (mosquito breeding grounds), and consider spraying the premises for major problems. We're not keen on the area-wide mosquito deterrent devices, zappers, and trapping products. Most leave a lot to be desired when it comes to major mosquito infestations.

In addition to spraying your horses, and especially for horses sensitive to mosquitoes, consider keeping them indoors during the dawn and dusk hours, which are prime mosquito-feeding times. ■



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