

European Starling Damage Management

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United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

USDA APHIS

Wildlife Services



WS' mission is: 1) "to provide leadership in wildlife damage management in the protection of America's agricultural, industrial and natural resources, and 2) to safeguard public health and safety"



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What are starlings?

What problems do they create?

What can I do to minimize the problems?

European Starlings



- Robin sized birds
- Yellow bill
- Short tail
- Cavity nesters
- Large flocks at feeding and roosting sites

- Introduced from Europe in 1890's
- Found throughout North America
- Migrate up to several hundred miles
- Large flocks in winter
- Unprotected status in Wisconsin



Potential Conflicts

- Property Damage
- Lowered Production
- Disease Concerns

Property Damage



Droppings at feeding and roost sites

Property Damage



Damage to facilities

Lowered Production



Direct competition for feed

Feed contamination



Disease Concerns



- Large flocks increase potential for disease transmission
- Birds freely travel between operations

Disease Concerns



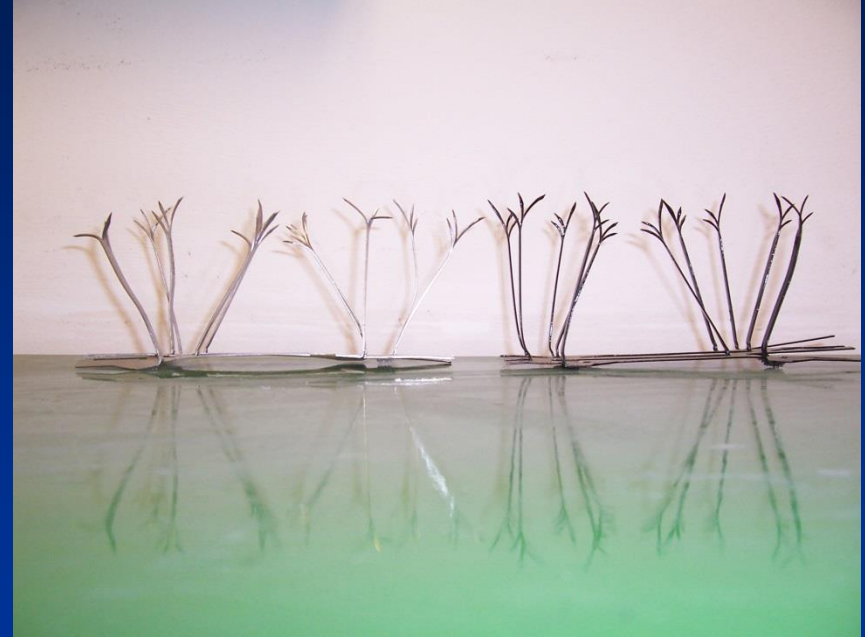
Control Options

- Exclusion
- Frightening
- Population Management

Exclusion



Prevent Access



Discourage Use

Exclusion



Netting to prevent roosting

Frightening



Propane Cannons



Pyrotechnics

Frightening



Scare Tactics



Distress Calls

Population Management



Shooting

- Unprotected in Wisconsin
- Improves effectiveness of pyrotechnics and cannons
- Often not effective in reducing large numbers of birds

Trapping



Often ineffective on
large flocks



Toxicants

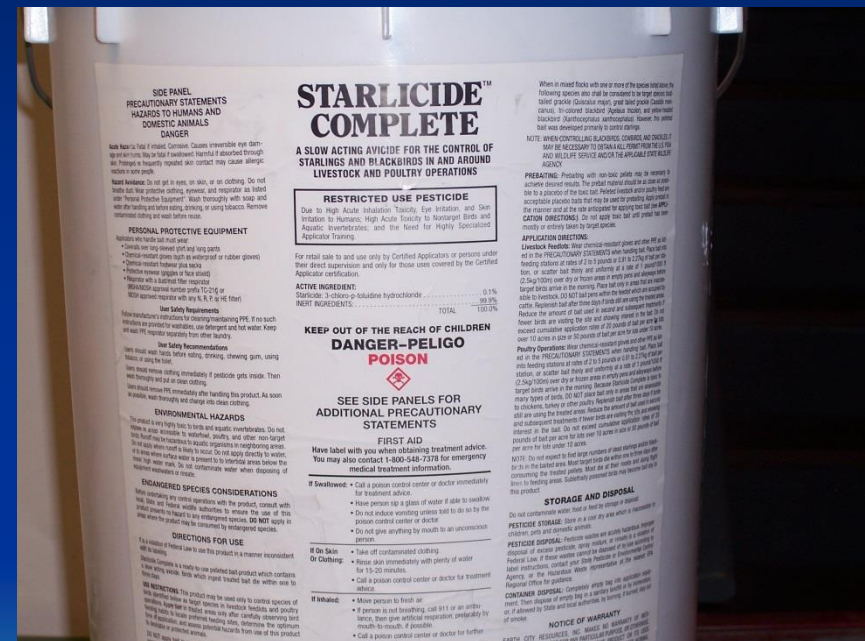
- Avitrol
- Starlicide Complete
- DRC 1339

Avitrol

- Restricted Use Pesticide
- Requires DNR permit
- Works mainly as a frightening agent
- Minimal secondary poisoning
- Birds can develop bait shyness

Starlicide Complete

- Restricted Use Pesticide
- Requires DNR permit
- Toxicant mixed on poultry pellet
- Treated pellets diluted
- Kills birds on initial use



DRC - 1339

- Toxicant developed by USDA-Wildlife Services
- Starlings very sensitive
- Mammals and many nonpest birds resistant
- Exclusive use by Wildlife Services
- Requires DNR permit



DRC - 1339

- Destroys starting kidney function
- Birds metabolize and excrete prior to expiring, virtually eliminating any secondary poisoning
- Birds die in 1 to 3 days often at roost location
- With proper prebaiting, 70-95% reduction in birds



Prebaiting



- High fat nugget
- Minimizes nontarget birds
- Prebait to get flocking effect
- Trays placed near feeding areas
- Prebait for 5 to 10 days
- Start gradual and increase
- Producer and Wildlife Services monitor consumption and watch for nontarget birds
- Treat after stable consumption

DRC-1339 Treatment



- Coordinate treatment to severe winter conditions
- Prebait mixed with DRC-1339 by Wildlife Services
- Notify DNR, DATCP, law enforcement
- Treated bait placed in morning prior to starling feeding

DRC-1339 Treatment



- Wildlife Services monitors treatment for nontarget birds and other issues
- Treated bait removed at end of the day
- Generally remove 70-95% of the birds
- Wildlife Services picks up dead birds the day after treatment

Recommendations

- Reduce attractiveness to starlings by eliminating access to food and roosting sites
- Use a variety of abatement measures
- Be diligent and persistent

For further assistance with European
starlings or migratory birds call our helpline.

1-800-433-0663 (WI)

or

(920) 324 - 4514



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