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Periodical Cicadas in Illinois 2024



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Periodical cicadas (*Magicicada spp.*) are among some of the longest lived insects with life cycles of 13 or 17 years spent in the soil feeding on tree roots. They emerge as a huge group (called a brood) after this long period and despite their large population numbers, they do not seem to be harmful to the trees they feed on as nymphs. Nymph emergence is soil temperature dependent. In Illinois, emergence tends to occur in May and June and lasts about four weeks. As adults, they can be pests on very young trees by laying their eggs in twigs and shoots, causing substantial damage in newly planted orchards.

The Eastern US is the only place in the world that periodical cicadas occur and there are 15 broods, each with a specific emergence year and known geographic location. Here in Illinois, we have members of five cicada broods. The map on the right shows the three broods that are relevant for 2024. In 2024, we will see emergence from the Northern Illinois Brood and the Great Southern Brood. Additionally, a 2028 group, the Mississippi Valley Brood may contain some cicadas that emerge in 2024, called stragglers. Most of the state of Illinois will experience periodical cicada emergence in 2024. Besides the noise, which may be substantial, this large group of insects is harmless and can be appreciated and enjoyed by nature lovers of all ages!

