

# Test Your Knowledge

Photo courtesy:  
www.mosbybuildingarts.com



**A.** If you'd seen me, you'd definitely remember me. I usually get at least an inch long and am often solid black but can be confused with my yellow and black-striped cousin. I've been told I have a bit of an attitude problem but I just don't like any person, dog or even bird invading my territory. Yeah, you will occasionally see me around flowers, but my thing is wood – I just love untreated wood! If you don't use pressure-treated wood on your deck, I will be sure to make my presence known. Who am I?

**B.** I come from a very large family, often numbering in the thousands. You'll normally find me out in the middle of your field because my family really doesn't like shade. However, if we find a place we like and decide to establish our colony in an area that has a few plants or trees around, we'll simply inject them with our formic acid and they are history. I would suggest that you think twice before messing with our mounds because we do tend to get a bit rowdy when provoked and we will protect ourselves and it'll hurt. Do you know me?



Photo courtesy: Steven Katovich, USDA Forest Service, [www.insectimages.org](http://www.insectimages.org)

**C.** I like to grow on fences, telephone poles, Buicks and just about anything else my rootlets can grab onto. I tend to get carried away sometimes if given free reign, especially in nursery plantations where I've been known to run amok. But, I'm not all bad, my bright orange, or sometimes red, trumpet-shaped bloom brings in the hummingbirds, bees and butterflies. Though I am a bit tenacious, I do make a beautiful backdrop on a trellis or pergola. Do you know me?



Photo courtesy: Chris Martin, [www.public.asu.edu/~camartin/](http://www.public.asu.edu/~camartin/)

**D.**

I'm probably one of the last plants you expected to see growing naturally in Kentucky, but I am native and don't be surprised if you find me. I do prefer drier soils, but I don't usually get much taller than two feet in height, unlike my western relatives. I do have a fleshy skin which does hold some water but folks like my flower which is why I'm also a popular houseplant, but be warned, my spines are sharp but my leaves are delicious; tasting like green beans. What am I?



Photo courtesy: [www.naturemanmatt.com](http://www.naturemanmatt.com)

Answers to Test Your Knowledge  
can be found on page 24.



**E.**

Chances are you have probably noticed me attacking the trees in your town. I prefer oaks, especially pin oaks, but I will settle for sweetgum, red maples and sycamores if oaks aren't around. The rumor is that I am spread through leafhoppers and as I build up in my host, I partially clog up the tree's internal plumbing to the leaves, causing a scorched appearance. Once I get rolling, I will kill my host and move onto the next victim. If am already in your neighborhood and you don't want me to visit your home, plant trees that are resistant to me. Do you know me?

Photo courtesy: University of California Statewide IPM Project, Regents, University of California