



Pest e-alerts



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Are Your Ears Buzzin'? Let Us Know If Periodical Cicadas are Present in Your County

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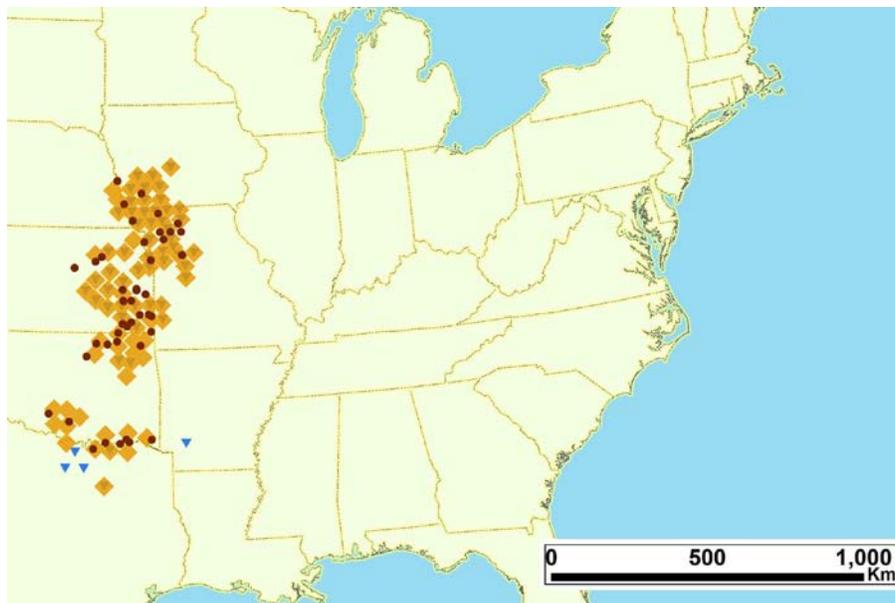
Brood IV (also known as the Kansas Brood) of the 17-year periodical cicada has emerged in Oklahoma. This insect (actually a group of 2 or 3 species in the genus *Magicicada*) is one of our longest-lived insects, and we won't see Brood IV again for another 17 years! What is even more amazing is that they spend 16 years underground and emerge for about 3-5 weeks to mate, lay eggs, and die! Brood IV is one of 16 broods of periodical cicadas that live in the U.S. Oklahoma hosts 3 broods (Brood II and Brood IV, which are 17-year species, and Brood XIX, which is a 13-year brood).

They all look very similar having bright orange-red eyes with a black body (some with orange bands on the abdomen) and orange-veined clear wings (below L). They are much smaller than our typical greenish "dog-day" cicada (below R) that we see every year.

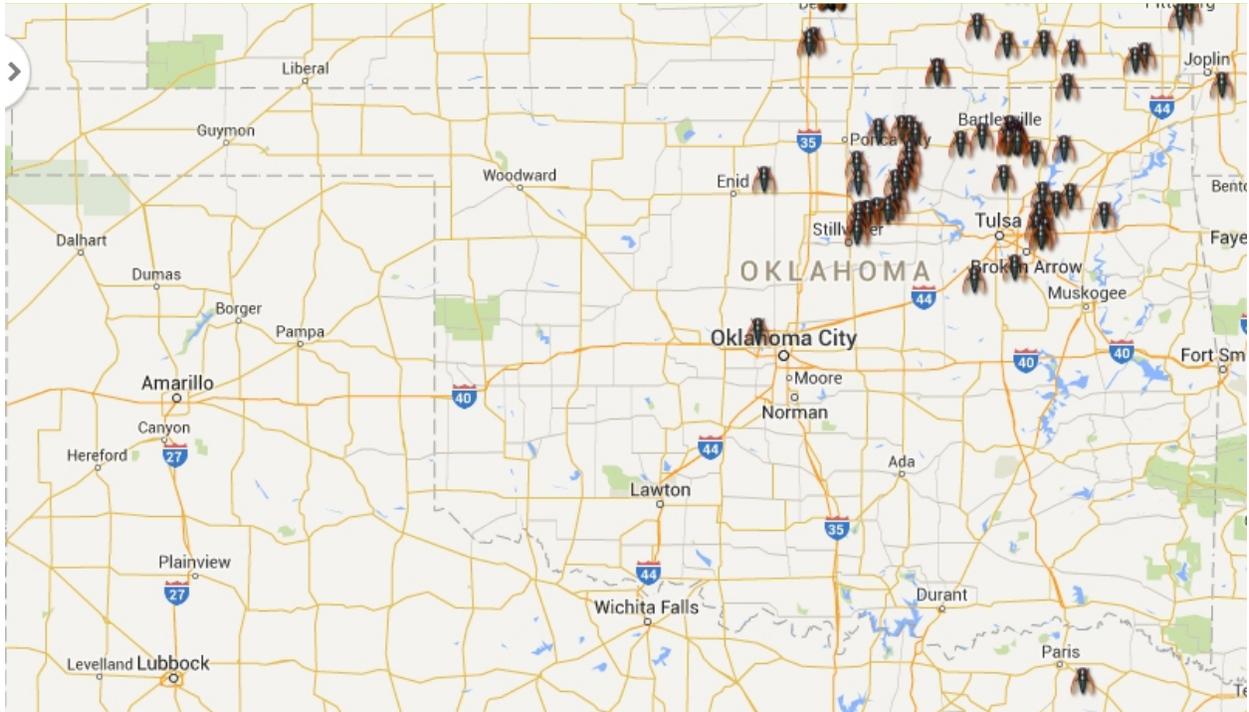


Their behavior is quite unique. They have a very precisely timed emergence (generally within 5 days of each other), emerge in huge numbers and tend to aggregate in patches of trees. Once they emerge, they make an ear-splitting cacophony of pulsing buzzing sounds during the day. They insert their eggs on tree branches, which results in some slight physical injury to the branch. This can result in “flagging” of small branches that turn brown and die. This injury does not seem to hurt older trees, but it might be a good idea to delay transplanting young trees until these cicadas die off (in about 2-3 weeks after emergence).

Our insect collection at OSU shows that we have collected Brood IV from the following counties: Bryan, Carter, Choctaw, Comanche, Cotton, Craig, Garvin, Grady, Mayes, McCurtain, Muskogee, Noble, Osage, Ottawa, Pawnee, Rogers, Stephens, Tulsa, and Washington. We want to know if they are singing in your county this year!



Historical map of their distribution in Oklahoma.



Current report of their distribution in Oklahoma ([Magiciada.org](http://www.magicicada.org) real-time reporting)

The easiest way to determine their presence is to go out during the day and LISTEN! We have included a link that you can click to hear an example of their call:

http://www.magicicada.org/about/magi_sounds/m_scassini_chor.mp3

E-mail Dr. Richard Grantham richard.grantham@okstate.edu and let us know if they are singing!

Dr. Richard Grantham - Director, Plant Disease and Insect Diagnostic Laboratory

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