

Periodical Cicadas Broods of Illinois 2024



Periodical cicadas (*Magicicada spp.*) are among some of the longest-lived insects, with life cycles in either 13-year or 17-year spans spent in the soil feeding on tree roots. After this long period, the insects emerge as a large group known as a brood. 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.



Fig. 1. Periodical cicada, *Magicicada spp.* Photo by Jon Yuschock, Bugwood.org #5445755

Emergence Timeline

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 eggs in twigs and shoots, causing substantial damage in newly planted orchards.

Additional Brood Information

The Eastern United States is the only place in the world where periodical cicadas occur, and there are 15 broods, each with a specific emergence year and known geographic location. In Illinois, there are members of five cicada broods.

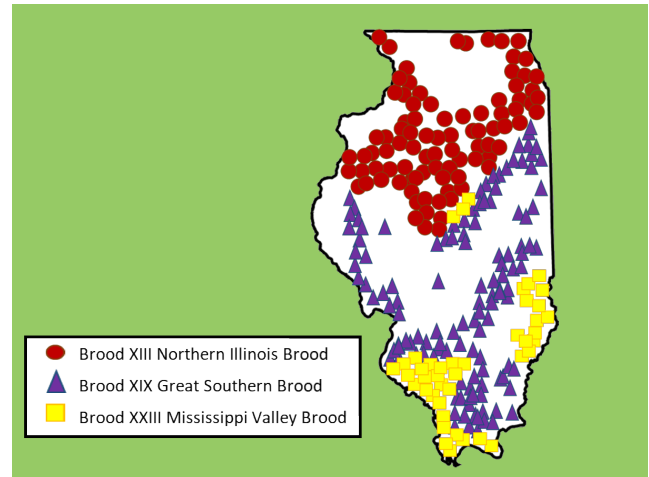


Fig. 2. The map shows the three broods that are relevant for 2024 emergence. Photo: Modified from Simon et al. 2022

In 2024, there will also be the emergence of 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.

What to Expect?

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.

Authors

Kacie Athey. 2023. "Periodical Cicadas (*Magicicada spp.*) Broods of Illinois 2024".

Reference

Simon, C., J. R. Cooley, R. Karban, and T. Sota. (2022). Advances in the Evolution and Ecology of 13- and 17-Year Periodical Cicadas. *Annual Review of Entomology*, 67(1), 457-482. doi.org/10.1146/annurev-ento-072121-061108

Pair of Periodical cicadas. Photo by Eric R. Day, Virginia Tech, Bugwood.org #5599982.

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