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Defend Your Garden Against Insect Pests

A little care and effort,
at the right time, will
save the food for you.

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Defend Your Garden

L. G. GENTNER

Insect pests always take a heavy toll out of garden crops.

If you have spent your time and money in planting a garden you can ill afford, this year in particular, to let your efforts be defeated by lack of control of insect pests.

After the insects once become numerous on the plants, it takes but a short time for them to do a great deal of injury, especially on young plants. Keep them under control from the start. **Every one that you miss early in the season will mean many more later on.**

As weeds furnish food and shelter for insects, one of the first things to do is to keep the garden free of them.

Where the insects are only few in number or are so large as to be easily seen, they may be kept under control by hand picking and destroying. Of course, this will take quite a little time and labor. It is therefore, often less expensive and more effective to spray the plants.

LEAD ARSENATE "GETS" CHEWING INSECTS

To control insects that chew the leaves and eat the plants spray the plants with arsenate of lead, 2 ounces (10 heaping teaspoons) of the powder to every gallon and a half of water; or dust on the plants the powder diluted with 3 parts of air slaked lime or fine dust.

Early morning is the best time to dust the plants for they are then wet with dew. Arsenate of lead is a deadly poison and care should be taken to keep it from children or animals. **It is better to use than Paris green, because it sticks to the foliage better, is not so likely to burn the foliage, and is much cheaper,** especially since the war has made Paris green very expensive. On plants with smooth leaves, such as cabbage, a little soap should be added to the spray to make it stick and spread better.

SPRAY LICE WITH SOAP SOLUTION

Plant lice may be controlled by spraying with a strong soap solution which should be forced into the curled leaves and thoroughly cover the bugs. They are often found on the under sides of the leaves and on the tender shoots, causing them to curl up. Fish oil soap is best, but ordinary laundry soap may also be used in making the spraying solution. It may be made by adding one-half pound of the soap to every 4 gallons of water. Tobacco sprays are very good, especially nicotine sulfate used at the rate of 1 part to 800 parts of water.

POISON BRAN MASH FOR CUT WORMS

To rid your garden of cutworms feed them on poisoned mash. They hide in the ground during the day, but come out at night and cut off young plants near the ground and also feed on the foliage. If one scatters poison bran mash over the ground several days before the plants appear or are set out, the worms in the soil feed on this and be poisoned. The mash should be scattered in the early evening so that it will not dry out before the worms feed on it, and may be applied at any time during the season that the worms cause serious injury. Care should be taken to keep poultry and other live stock away from it.

To make up the bran mash mix 2 ounces of white arsenic or Paris green with 3 pounds of bran. Dissolve 1 ounce of salt and 2 ounces of cheap syrup in a little water. Then mix all together adding enough water to make a crumbly mash. The mash may either be broadcasted or placed about the bases of the plants.

SPRAYING WILL NOT KILL THESE

Worms that bore inside of the vines and stems of plants cannot be controlled by sprays. In the case of the stalk borer on potato and tomato plants, infested parts

should be cut off and destroyed as soon as noticed. In case of the squash vine borer, the worm may be killed by slitting the vine with a sharp knife.

CAUTIONS

1. Arsenate of lead, Paris green and poison bran mash are deadly poisons. Keep children and animals away from them.

2. Do not spray cabbage with arsenate of lead after the heads are made in the fall; beans after the pods have formed; or tomatoes after the fruit is nearly full grown.

3. Always use the right kind of spray for the right kind of insect.

For maggots on onions, radish, and turnips there is no satisfactory control except to destroy the infested plants. These whitish maggots will often work in the roots of plants, tunneling through them and causing the plants to wilt or become dwarfed. Cabbage maggots may be prevented from getting on the plants by placing tarred felt discs about the bases of the plants at the surface of the ground as they are being set out.

Squash bugs are resistant to spray. If pieces of board or burlap are placed near the plants the bugs will collect under them and may be gathered and destroyed early in the morning.

Liquid sprays may be applied with small hand sprayer which can be bought at a small cost. Dust sprays may be dusted through a cloth sack or applied with a dust gun.

As soon as the crops are harvested all refuse matter, old vines and stumps should be gathered and destroyed by burning. If left in the garden, they will give food to the insects and will be a shelter for the winter.

For further or more detailed information write the Department of Economic Entomology, College of Agriculture, Madison.