Gardeners try natural pest control

Excitement and ladybugs were in the air this summer on Pilgrim Street in Birmingham. Shella Eggle suggested an alternative method (to spraying) of pest control to Stephen and Ellen Masty and three other neighbors. This is the second year they have tried Integrated Pest Management — and it seems to have worked.

Although lacewings and praying mantises were included, the most success was seen by using ladybugs. Here's what happened.

The trees were sprayed with adormant oil spray early in the year and the ladybugs ordered from California. February the shipment arrived, with instructions to keep them reclease and the instructions said not to return them, Masty and friends gave the five bags, each containing more than 1,000 ladybugs packed in moist straw, to Cranbrook.

THE BUGS were released in the

THE BUGS were released in the Orchid House to control aphids and they really did their job. When the vents were opened during warmer weather, one by one the bugs left to feast upon the plants in the nearby Cranhrook gardens. Therefore, a benefit came from the shipper's error.

The second shipment arrived in

JOHN YUGOVICH

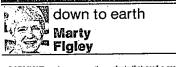
mid-May and it was kept in the refrigerator for a month. Three times a week, the hadybugs were released until all were bushly foraging in the five yards by the end of Jone. Next year, Masty said they will "hold back" a few for later release. By about August they had all disappeared.

No other sprays were applied in the yards and gordens of these homes. The consensus of the group of homeowners was that, given the unusually wet summer, the plan was a success. One man put the bugs and the packing material in the crotch of trees when releasing them.

MY INFORMATION tells me that in order to ensure that the ladybugs stay "home," plenty of aphids should be present. The cool of the evening is the best time for release after the area has been watered down. A good supply of food stimulates egg laying. More eggs means more larvae, which also eat aphids.

There are other predators to use to control other insects for Integration and the predators and an are green lacewing, praying mantls and mematode.

I believe we are just scratching the surface of this innovative way to control pests in the covironment. My hat is off to the neighbors on Pilgrim for their forward-thinking plan.



DOES YOUR garden group participate in horticultural therapy? If so, "Growing with Gardening, A 12-Month Guide for Therapy, Recreation and Education" by Bibby Moore (\$41.95 paper, \$2.95 cloth, The University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2268, Chaple Hill, N.C. 27515-2268, p. 191, \$965-3591, N.C. 27515-2268, p. 191, \$965-3591, Sure to give new ideas for this subject.

Specific instructions and charts are very clear, for instance, a list of

F

plants that need a rooting hormone applied for success is included. Gardening chores and planning for specific temperature zones is most belpful. As you know, Alice W. Burlingame, my predecesor, was a ploneer in this work, which is still dear to her heart.

Bill Fuhrman of Bloomfield Hills sald he has had some success using slug pellets made by Ortho in discouraging these pests.



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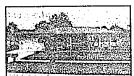
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