

How To Fight Your Garden Insect Pests

EAST LANSING
To keep ahead of garden insects, Michigan State University entomologists offer these tips on control:

• **BLACK VINE WEEVIL**—Sometimes called the tawny weevil, this pest feeds at night on broadleaf evergreens such as the Japanese yew (taxus), rhododendrons, azaleas, mountain laurel and wisteria.

The black adult beetle feeds on the lower leaves of the plant. Leaf edges will appear to have circles cut out of them. The black vine weevil lays its eggs in July. Eggs hatch into grubs in August and burrow into the soil

where they feed upon roots of shrubs until cold weather sets in.

The small white grubs overwinter and begin feeding on roots again in May. They pupate and mature as adults in June.

To control the black vine weevil, use two sprays of Sevin (follow directions of manufacturer), one in late June and another in 10-14 days. Lower portions of the plant and the surrounding soil surface should be sprayed thoroughly before the adults lay their eggs.

• **MITES**—The mite is nearly invisible to the naked eye, although it is one of the

most destructive pests to shrubs, flowers and trees. Mites are not considered insects because they are more closely related to spiders. Most species of the four-legged adults lay eggs.

Under dry, hot conditions, mite populations increase rapidly. Heavy populations may cause leaves of deciduous trees to fall early or conifers to take on a brownish appearance.

Mites can be controlled by spraying foliage thoroughly with either Tordon or Kelthane. Applications should be repeated every four days for three weeks for maximum control. Kelthane kills adult

and young mites while Tordon kills eggs.

• **LEAFHOPPERS**—These green to dark brown insects suck the juices from a large number of plants such as ap-

ples, raspberries, trees and some herbaceous flowers. Honey locust is especially susceptible to their attack. During summer and late fall, the foliage attacked by these insects takes on a pale

color, with specks of greenish-white showing on the underside of the leaf. Their attack may cause locust to completely drop all its foliage during mid to late summer.

The insect overwinters in the egg stage and the nymphs appear during June. There are several generations each year. The nymphs as well as the adults suck the plant juices to cause damage.

Spray with Seven wettable powder or malathion emulsifiable concentrate if the pests are found in large numbers and causing considerable damage.

Bygone Days Recreated In Miniature

No one can bring back "the good old days," but across the country, craftsmen, handymen and housewives are recreating the bygone days in miniature.

The old country store, an 1850 carpenter shop, a revolutionary era farmhouse, an old Maine cottage, a Victorian mansion—all are in the miniature craft mill. One ardent craftsman has even recreated the famous tourist attraction, India's Taj Mahal.

A multi-million dollar business in small scale items (one inch to one foot) —

newspapers, footstools, candles, lamps, furniture, dishes, books, shelves, fireplace implements, and so forth — has sprung up to meet the demand for furnishings.

Most of these also can be used for the less demanding "first cousin" craft, doll house making.

Most miniature artisans begin with a simple project — a square room, a woodshed, a bakery shop — but once the "bug" bites, most go on to more complicated projects such as an 1890 railroad station, a Frank Lloyd Wright house, or a frontier general store.

For beginners and professionals alike, the task is made easy by creative power tools.

Basic requirements include a tabletop electric jig saw for cutting out walls, doors, furniture, etc., plus attachments that permit sanding, shaping, drilling, scrollwork, fine finishing, and hand-held rotary tools that shape, deburr, polish, drill, sand, and finish.

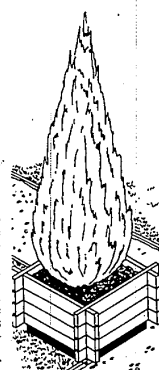
Nor are finished miniatures themselves their only reward. There's a brisk market for well-executed ones, and they can fetch a very at-

tractive price: \$100 to \$300 or more is not unusual.

Moreover, the art has "stature." As an example, the Art Institute in Chicago has a collection of miniature rooms that can only be described as fabulous.

Sound interesting? For a nudge in the right direction, send 50 cents to Dremel Mfg. Co., P.O. Box 518, Racine Wis. 53401, for patterns of its famous Mary Shreck miniature doll house.

While a doll house rather than a miniature, it will help introduce the beginner to all the elements of miniature making.



PERT PLANTER box of 2x6 western wood tongue and groove decking on base of 4x8s has sheet metal liner and gravel drainage.

Your Lawn Slime Mold Is Harmless

EAST LANSING
Rainy weather or high humidity may cause slime molds to appear on your lawn. "These do not cause any damage, but may be annoying if you have a well-managed lawn," says Joseph Vargas, Michigan State University turfgrass pathologist.

Slime molds are bluish-grey, black or yellow masses in small areas of your lawn. Occurring mainly during periods of damp weather, they become powdery and disappear during dry weather.

Slime molds are not parasitic, notes Vargas. They belong to a group of lower fungi which live on dead organic matter. The only damage incurred is shading and a temporary discoloring of the grass.

Slime molds may be removed by mowing, sweeping with a lawn or spraying with a strong stream of water. During prolonged periods of damp weather, large growths may be seen. In this case, apply a good garden or turf fungicide to affected areas.

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Uniform Building Code Planned For Michigan

The Dept. of Labor Construction Code Commission has voted in favor of using the Building Officials and Code Administrators International (BOCA) code in Michigan.

The ten member board has been evaluating major building codes as the basis for a uniform code in the state and proposed late Wednesday afternoon to adopt BOCA's Basic Building Code regulations.

The next step in the promulgation of a uniform code for Michigan will be a series of public hearings around the state before the plan goes through the legislative process for formal adoption.

Robert Hilprecht, commission director, recommended adoption of the BOCA code because a greater number of communities representing a large portion of the population are already working with BOCA as opposed to the International Conference of Building Officials.

According to a six-month survey by the commission, over 50 per cent of the state's governmental units have no building codes at all. The commission has been meeting for several months

and has listened to representations by both major building code officials. The governor-appointed board is also charged with the responsibility of providing for statewide approval of pre-manufactured units and the testing of new devices, materials and techniques.

The public hearings have been tentatively scheduled for September in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Lansing and Iron Mountain. Notices will be published in the media at least ten days prior to the meetings.

Pick Vegetables As They Mature

Vegetables should be harvested as soon as they ripen, says Robert Hermer, horticulturist at Michigan State University.

To attain highest nutritional value, this is the time to cook, can, prepare, freeze or use fresh your vine-ripened vegetables.

Harvesting vegetables as they mature keeps the plants producing for longer periods of time.

For example, says Hermer, a cucumber plant may produce about 10 or 12 cucumbers if they are allowed to mature, then yellow and are not harvested.

However, if harvested as they ripen, 40 or 50 cucumbers may be produced.

When harvesting, do not pull or tear and damage the plant or step on vines. Hold the plant with one hand and

snip, pinch or cut the crop with the other.

As soon as the vegetable crop or row is finished bearing, pull the plants out and prepare the row for the next planting.

"If you follow these steps with caution, you'll get a lot more produce in the long run," Hermer concludes.

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