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April 26, 1938.

SOME INSECTS AID GARDENER

The wise home gardener recognizes and encourages her insect friends, for some of the insects commonly found on garden plants are of great help in destroying insects that are pests.

The familiar small red-or orange-colored beetle with black spots on its back, called the "lady beetle" or lady bird," is one of the most helpful of all insects because it eats the plant lice or aphids that attack so many garden plants. Lady beetles also eat the eggs of many other injurious insects. Entomologists find that an adult lady beetle requires a daily ration of 50 to 80 plant lice. Mistaken gardeners have sometimes supposed that these small beetles were the parents of aphids or plant lice, rather than their enemies.

Another insect that feeds on aphids is a green sluglike maggot about half an inch long, often marked with whitish stripes. These maggots also are often seen in the company of aphids on plants because they are feeding on these pests. The small yellow black-banded syrphus fly is the adult of these helpful green worms.

Still other helpful insects are ground beetles, lace-wing flies, and tachina flies which do much to cut down the number of insects that feed upon plants in the garden.

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1. The first step in the process of identifying a problem is to recognize that a problem exists. This is often done by comparing current performance with a desired state or goal. Once a problem is identified, the next step is to define the problem more precisely. This involves determining the scope of the problem, the resources available, and the constraints that may be affecting the problem. The third step is to analyze the problem. This involves identifying the causes of the problem and the relationships between different variables. The fourth step is to generate potential solutions. This involves brainstorming ideas and evaluating them based on their feasibility and effectiveness. The fifth step is to select a solution. This involves choosing the best solution based on the criteria established in the previous steps. The sixth step is to implement the solution. This involves putting the solution into action and monitoring its progress. The seventh step is to evaluate the results. This involves comparing the actual results with the desired results and determining whether the problem has been solved. If the problem has not been solved, the process may need to be repeated.