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find
and
report


YOUR
INSECT
ENEMIES

find and report...


Damaging insects are all around us—more than 10,000 kinds. They eat our crops and kill our trees. They bite us and our animals. They make us sick.

Most of our worst insects came from other countries. Most of them got here before we had a law—the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912—to help us keep insects out. We wish we could have had the law earlier to keep out such foreign insects as alfalfa weevil, boll weevil, European corn borer, Japanese beetle, gypsy moth, face fly, spotted alfalfa aphid, codling moth, khapra beetle, imported fire ant, and white-fringed beetle. They do a lot of damage each year.

Plant quarantine inspectors watch for new and destructive insects—at sea-



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your insect enemies



ports, international airports, and border crossings. They intercept thousands of specimens of serious agricultural pests each year. Even so, some insect pests occasionally slip past our quarantine barrier. It is these pests that we want you to help us find.

If we find insects early, when there are only a few, we can keep them in a small area and control them. We may even be able to get rid of them. The Mediterranean fruit fly, or Medfly, is an insect that we found early each time it invaded our country. Finding this highly destructive enemy of our fruit and vegetable industry early has helped us eradicate the Medfly and thus save millions of dollars.

Once an insect spreads over the country, however, its control is costly and continues from year to year. The European corn borer is a good example. It was discovered too late to get rid of it. Now it eats up cornfields in 39 States and causes millions of dollars worth of damage every year.

We look for these insects—the new ones—in every State. And we need your help.

HOW YOU CAN HELP...

You can help us keep out new insects by watching for—

- New kinds of plant injury caused by insect feeding.
- New insects in your area.
- Unusual insect attack on you or your animals.
- Sudden appearance of large numbers of damaging insects.

Report any of these discoveries to your county agricultural agent, experiment station entomologist, or plant pest control inspector.

Send or bring one or two of the insects along with your report, if you can. Put soft-bodied insects (such as aphids, grubs, caterpillars, or maggots) in a small bottle of alcohol (rubbing alcohol will do). Kill other insects and wrap them in facial tissue.

Be sure to give your name and address, and tell when and where you found the insects.

Do not mail live insects. They may get out and cause trouble in new areas.

Prepared By
Plant Pest Control Division
Agricultural Research Service

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