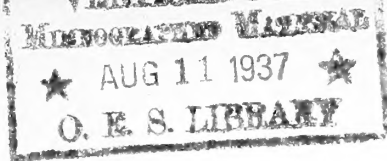


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In 3/24

A SUCCESSFUL GARDENER

KNOWS HIS INSECTS

To protect garden flowers against pests, know the insects' eating habits, advise entomologists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Some insects prefer solid food because they have mouth parts equipped for biting or chewing plants. Others take their nourishment in liquid form because their mouths are made for sucking plant juices.

The chewing insects include leaf-eating beetles, grasshoppers, caterpillars, and other wormlike forms. To combat these, entomologists suggest stomach poisons like arsenical sprays or dusts. The sucking pests such as red spiders, aphids, scale insects, and mealybugs draw their food from inside the plant, so must be killed by nicotine or soap sprays or pyrethrum or sulphur dusts, which suffocate or burn.

In small flower gardens, sprays or dusts are often unnecessary because the insects or infested leaves may be picked off and destroyed. The gardener who wears gloves may pick off many caterpillars and beetles, or the leaves on which they are feeding, and drop them into a pail containing a little kerosene. When a plant is infested with a large number of leaf-eating beetles or plant bugs, lay a large piece of cloth on the ground beneath it and shake off the insects by tapping the plant with a stick. The insects that fall off may be gathered up and dropped into kerosene. Gardeners will be wise to keep a careful watch for folded or rolled-up leaves, or those tied together with

(more)

(A successful gardener knows his insects)

webbing, for caterpillars are probably hidden inside.

Anyone who is growing flowers this summer may have further facts by writing for Farmers' Bulletin No. 1495, "Insect Enemies of the Flower Garden." This bulletin is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., price 5 cents.

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