

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



No. 226

April 26, 1938.

VERTICAL FILE
MICROGRAPHED MATERIAL
★ OCT 23 1939 ★
O. E. S. LIBRARY

9
3/24

SUMMER-TIME BRINGS ANTS

Ants like sweet foods especially, such as sugar, cakes, and candies, and cooked meats or meat products. The Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, which has made extensive studies of the ways of ants and methods of preventing annoyance from them, explains that if a foraging or scout ant locates food of these kinds, it reports its discovery to the ant colony. In an incredibly short time the storage place may be swarming with unwelcome visitors.

If the nest can be located by following the trail of the workers back to the point of their disappearance, the inmates of the nest or colony may be reached and destroyed. If the nest is not in a place where a fire hazard would be created, the ants may be destroyed by injecting a little carbon bisulphide, kerosene, or gasoline into the opening by means of an oil can or small syringe. These substances are all inflammable. Precautions should be taken to see that no fire is lighted where they are used.

Tried and proved prevention methods are to keep food supplies likely to attract ants in tight containers or in the refrigerator, sweep up promptly any crumbs of cake or bread scattered in the house.

Poison baits can also be used to kill the queens and the brood.

Sugar sirup containing sodium arsenite, benzoate of soda, and tartaric acid is an effective bait. If used out of doors it should be placed in small containers and put near the place where ants occur in large numbers. If used indoors, small amounts can be placed in the trail of the ants on sponges. Precautions should be taken to safeguard human beings and animals when poisoned sirups are being used, prepared, or kept on hand.

