

Safe in the Soil

We all know that ladybugs will protect our roses from aphids but were you aware that there are soil predators too?



Hypoaspis miles

Hypoaspis miles (Hype-O tm) is one such predator, a predator mite to be exact. Feeding on fungus gnats, thrips springtails and bulb mites the hypoaspis are always hungry. Introducing these predators to your seedlings or bulbs before the pest arrives helps prevent an outbreak in the future. Earth friendly – Gnat Deadly

Garden Projects

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of pesticides. Start your season off right by preparing a bug friendly garden.

The Bug Binder

The dark months of January are the perfect time to create a bug binder to catalogue pest outbreaks in your garden. On a piece of construction paper, map out your garden design. Overlay a second sheet of trace paper onto the construction paper & label the areas of pest infestation and time of pest arrival in 2004. A new overlay can be created each year or done a few times a season to forecast where problems may arise. The trends you see develop will also aid in determining the plants needed to attract the appropriate natural predators. For example, if you are having a reoccurring thrips problem in your Gladiolas you will want to add plants that attract thrips predators such as; Shasta daisies or sunflowers. Check out [Companion plants](#) on our website for further information

Slaying Sowbugs

Sow bugs on the seeding table is a recipe for disaster. Get them before they get you with the corneal control. Take a small empty margarine container and cut a small hole at the base. Add 1 TBSP cornmeal to the container, cover with lid and place next to the seeding trays. The sow bugs enter, feed, drink and expandto death

Bug Me!

Q. *The leaves of my Rhododendron are being chewed to bits, is this from a caterpillar?*



Susan Raddon - Victoria BC

A. No, not a caterpillar but the Black Vine Weevil. Both the adult and the larvae feed on the rhododendron, the adult on the leaves and the larvae on the roots. Without intervention they will kill a plant. Using nematodes to manage these pests provides long term control and not just a quick fix.

See [Good Bugs Bad Bugs](#)

Q. *I have a lot of fungus gnats around my seeding table. Are they a pest?*

Gordon Thompson -

Toronto

A. Indeed fungus gnats will chew the roots of your young seedlings and possibly transmit *Pythium* (Damping off) Add Hype-O tm to the soil at the time of seeding to prevent the pest from moving in.




Nematodes Naturally!

Include the garden in your New years resolution by applying the nematode solution. Adding these beneficial worms to the soil is more than a quick fix but an ongoing preventive remedy to what ails you. **Weevils, Chafer, Crane fly, Web worm** or **Cut worm** will all succumb to a nematodes voracious appetite. This natural remedy requires no safety equipment and does not threaten your plants or pets. As a natural life form in the soil, nematodes are accustomed to the wide variety of pests we encounter and the temperatures they thrive in

Good Riddance to Pesticides

Making the change to Earth friendly gardening practices requires a fresh start to pest control. However, getting rid of the poisonous pesticides requires responsible disposal. Synthetic compounds will harm our watersheds and ground water as the properties that make pesticides work are the properties that kill. These properties include high water solubility, slow adsorption (the ability of a pesticide to remain in the soil), and high persistence (how long it takes for the chemical to degrade).

Getting rid of the pesticide bottles left lingering in the back corner of the garage is as easy as driving to a Product Care ["Paint Plus" Depot](#) location available to all BC residents. Product Care is a non-government response to stewardship regulations demanded of "brand owners". There is no charge to drop off leftovers that are accepted by the program. To find the Depot close to you check out <http://www.productcare.org>. Consumer products accepted by Product Care must have both the poisonous (skull & cross

bones) symbol  and Pest Control Product (PCP) number. Maximum container size is 10 Litres.

Upcoming Events

January. 23 2005 2pm
Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, Victoria BC.
Talk title; "How to keep bad bugs at bay"

February 5, 2005 10-3pm
Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday. Qualicum Beach Vendor

March 5 2005 – Comox Valley Seedy Saturday. Comox Valley Vendor

April 16, 2005 10a.m.
Dinter Nursery Duncan, BC
Talk Title; "Seeding Life"

If you have any questions about bugs or The Bug Lady
Just Bug me!

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