

Early Warm Weather Accentuates Bug Problems

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Insects are cold blooded creatures so when the weather is warm, their activity speeds up. Dry, hot weather is especially to their liking.

Dripping of "sap" from trees, "popcorn" on limbs of maples, garden plants turning to lace are all symptoms of bug problems.

The "sap" dripping from trees is particularly annoying because it covers plants, picnic tables or cars and then turns sooty black. This sap is in reality honeydew dripping from aphids feeding in the trees. The aphid infestation is as heavy this year as in any within memory. The white stuff that drops from infested trees is the old skins shed by the aphids as they grow.

"Popcorn" on branches of trees is the egg masses being laid by cottony maple scale. These eggs are eaten by small black ladybugs that are around in profusion this season. Catch one and take a close look. You will see two small red spots on the back, thus the name, twice-stabbed lady bug.

Nocturnal pests include earwigs which make lace of marigolds, salvia, chrysanthemums; slugs and sowbugs that work over peppers, cabbages, beans; and cutworms that gnaw off anything they can find.

Control the aphids in severely infested trees with malathion or orthene. If lady bugs don't clean up the cottony maple scales, these trees will begin to "drip" again in July and can be treated with malathion at the time. Don't be in a rush; let nature handle it if it can.

Take a flashlight on a night-time safari around your garden to see which pests are out there. Pick off cutworms or wrap aluminum foil around bottom of affected plants so the cutworms can't find them. Dust with Seven to control earwigs, sowbugs.

Methaldehyde snail baits work, especially while snails are small.


Be sure to read the label on any chemicals you use. Then use them exactly as the label directs. There materials are safe when properly used — misused they can cause trouble.

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Place - Morton Arboretum, Lisle Illinois

Date — Wednesday, August 3, 1988 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

ILCA's Summer Field Day features more than 160 exhibit booths for dealers of tractors, lawn maintenance equipment, stone, mulch, concrete products, pots and containers, chemicals and fertilizers, nursery stock, greenhouse plants, and other green industry services. The day mixes the business of demonstrations and sales contacts with the pleasure of tours of the Arboretum, a grilled steak lunch, beer and soda, music, and the annual horseshoes tournament. Over 1700 attended last year's Field Day and more is expected this year.



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