

A FEW PEST CONTROL MATERIALS USED IN ORGANIC GARDENING

Predators and Parasites – Time releases to coincide with presence of prey. Yearly releases are probably necessary. Some are mobile and will leave the area.

Aphid Predator - Aphids

Beneficial Nematodes – Cabbage maggot, Colorado potato beetle, onion maggot.

Fly Parasites – fly pupae in compost and manure.

Ladybugs – predator especially effective against aphids and mites.

Predatory Mites – Plant-feeding mites

Trichogramma – wasp parasite of moth and butterfly eggs

Other General Predators – Lacewings, Minute Pirate Bugs, Praying Mantids.

Biologicals – Living micro-organisms or their products that cause disease in pests. Some are specific in attacking only a class of insects; others have a broad affect.

Bacillus thuringiensis: a bacterium effective against butterflies and moths. Cabbage worm, corn earworm, loopers.

Beauveria bassiana: a fungus that attacks a wide range of insects. Colorado potato beetle, corn earworm.

Nosema locustae: effective against nymphs of most species of grasshoppers.

Spinosad: a product from fermented fungi; somewhat selective in that it needs to be consumed by plant feeding insects. Caterpillars, Colorado potato beetle, flea beetles, blister beetles, leaf miners.

Botanicals – Extracts of plants. Most are broad spectrum, that is, toxic to a wide variety of insects including pollinators and other beneficials. Kill insects on contact.

Neem (azadirachtin) – Reported harmless to bees, spiders, lady bugs, parasitic wasps, and butterflies. Effective against Colorado potato beetle, cabbage butterfly, aphids, blister beetles, flea beetles, leaf miners.

Pyrethrum – Broad spectrum, harmful to beneficials. Rapid knockdown of almost any insect.

Rotenone – Broad spectrum, harmful to beneficial. Colorado potato beetle, cabbage butterfly, flea beetles, blister beetles.