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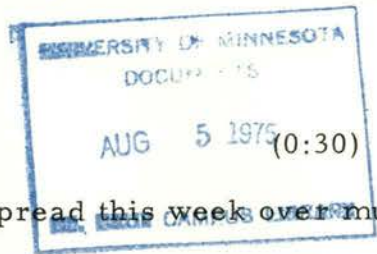
(612) 373-0710



yard/garden
radio briefs

August 1, 1975

Cutworms



Varigated cutworms are widespread this week over much of Minnesota--mostly in gardens. (Some cutworms might be found in soybean and potato fields.)

University Extension Entomologist John Lofgren says cutworms also might be found in ornamentals. For more information on what you can do about cutworms, get Entomology Fact Sheet 11, "Controlling Insects in the Home Vegetable Garden," from your county extension office.

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August Gardening

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August is the time of blazing color in Minnesota gardens planted with annuals. Sunny beds and borders filled with petunias, marigolds, zinnias, portulaca, salvia and all the other popular flowers are usually at their best in August. Cutting off faded flowers before seed pods begin to form will keep plants blooming. Watch for insect damage on leaves and tender shoots.

Sevin or Methoxychlor, used according to directions on the label, will control plant bugs, various chewing larvae, and leaf hoppers. If aphids are present, use Malathion. Cool, dewy nights may encourage mildew on susceptible plants, particularly zinnias.

Dusting sulfur or Mildex will help keep leaves clean. A better plan for disease problems on annuals is to be sure to put problem plants in sunny, airy locations, and watch for varieties resistant to mildew.

Scarlet Ruffles is one zinnia variety known to keep healthy green foliage.

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