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PEST CONTROL IN THE GARDEN

The most troublesome of the pests in the garden are weeds, insects and disease. Weeds need to be controlled not only because they compete with your garden plants but because they harbor insects and diseases. For example, the aster yellows virus disease on carrots, lettuce, celery, tomatoes and some ornamentals is spread from certain weeds to these plants by the six-spotted leafhopper.

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A methoxychlor-malathion mixture is one of the most useful insecticides for the home vegetable garden. Applied as a spray or dust, it will control most of the common leaf-chewing and sap-sucking insect pests. You can add a fungicide like zineb or maneb to the methoxychlor-malathion mixture to prevent and control foliage diseases on tomatoes and potatoes.

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On fruits, one of the most troublesome pests is the apple maggot. The adults are small flies that lay eggs in early July through most of August under the skin of the apple, leaving a small black dot. The worms that hatch from the eggs tunnel through the flesh, causing brown streaks. Spraying for the apple maggot should begin in early July and repeated every 7 to 10 days through August. Use either 1 tablespoon of 50 percent diazinon wettable powder or 2 tablespoons of 50 percent Sevin (carbaryl) wettable powder per gallon of water. Thorough coverage of the entire tree with the spray is very important. Spray from all sides of the tree. A mature tree requires at least 3 to 5 gallons of spray. Immediate disposal of apple drops is also important in controlling apple maggot.

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Malathion is effective as a spray or dust to combat aphids on ornamentals. The aphids are usually found on newly growing tips or clustered around the stem. They vary in color but most of them are black, red or green.

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