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consumer radio briefs

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Attractant Lights To Kill Insects Of Little Value (0:25)

Attractant lights using electric grids to kill insects have again been advertised in Minnesota. These will be of little value for outdoor insect--night flying only--control. University of Minnesota Extension Entomologist David Noetzel (nayt--sell) says they may have some value in a closed and/or screened room where insect access is kept near zero. If you do purchase one of these for outdoor insect control, Noetzel suggests you give it to your neighbor. Most research finds higher insect numbers of the vicinity of the trap.

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Diatomaceous Earth And Insect Control (0:35)

Questions are again being asked about the value of diatomaceous earth for insect control. Diatomaceous earth consists of finely ground fossil shells of primitive plants called diatoms. Some of the plants developed silica (sand-like) shells.

When finely ground, the edges of the silica shells are quite abrasive to insect cuticle. In principle this abrasion of the insect cuticle leads to dehydration, or water loss, on the part of the insect and varying mortality depending on the kind of insect. Recent suggestions that diatomaceous earth might have some value for control of elm bark beetles and/or various agricultural pests has little, if any, supporting research information.

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