

Guide for the Home Garden

Protection Against Insect Pests

STATEMENTS made recently by persons in close touch with the commercial market gardening industry seem to indicate that vegetables for the civilian community consumption may, at certain periods, be in somewhat short supply. Should this forecast materialise, home-gardeners will have themselves largely to blame if full advantage has not been taken of all the facilities available for the production of vegetables to satisfy family requirements.

In the home-garden notes for November mention was made of the desirability of making every endeavour to assure supplies of winter vegetables. It is now intended to deal specifically with a few of the troubles which may

be encountered in growing the crops to which reference has been made.

Carrots

This root crop is subject to attacks by two particular pests: (1) vegetable weevil; (2) carrot-rust fly. These insects are not by any means of microscopic dimensions. The adult grub of the vegetable weevil grows to nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in length, and it is estimated that in a single season it lays from 300 to 1500 eggs, so that infestation of the soil may have very serious results in a garden where carrot crops are being grown. The part of the plant which suffers most injury from the depredations of the weevil is the leaf growth. The danger of infestation may be particularly stressed when it

is realised that fourteen other vegetables in the garden are hosts of the pest.

An infested carrot crop should not be followed by either potatoes or tomatoes, as these plants are also subject to attack by this pest. Control may be accomplished by spraying with nicotine sulphate, used according to the directions printed on the container, or arsenate of lead—powder form—1 oz. to 2 gallons of water. Derris as a dust or a spray will be an efficient destroying agent.

The full-grown maggot of the carrot-rust fly is about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long. The presence of this pest in the carrot bed may be manifested before the roots are known to be damaged. As soon as the foliage is observed to turn yellow, changing later to the colour of a badly burned brick, it can be assumed that the fly is present. There is no mistake about the presence of the pest when carrots are affected. Destruction usually begins at the crown, and furrows may be eaten round the top and down the sides of the root. Unless prompt action is taken the whole crop may be destroyed or rendered unfit for human consumption.

As recommended in the November issue of the "Journal," horticultural naphthalene, broadcast at the rate of 1 oz. to 9 ft. of row has been proved, by experiment, to be the most effective method of control. This product is cheap, is manufactured in New Zealand, and its use is therefore economically preferable to any imported specifics.

Care of Green Crops

Almost from the time the seedlings of autumn and winter-maturing vegetables appear above the ground, precautionary measures require to be adopted against insect attacks, which, if permitted to go unchecked, will quickly destroy the whole of the growth. Cabbage aphid—green fly—caterpillars, diamond-backed moth, cut-worms, snails, and slugs are the principal pests which are most likely to cause serious trouble to the home-gardener. As soon as the seedlings show signs of active growth they are liable to be attacked by the green fly. Later, the other pests begin to feed upon the growing plants.

The insecticides recommended for use on carrots may also be used with equally efficient results on all cruciferous crops. To obtain the highest degree

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