



It's Garden Time Again!

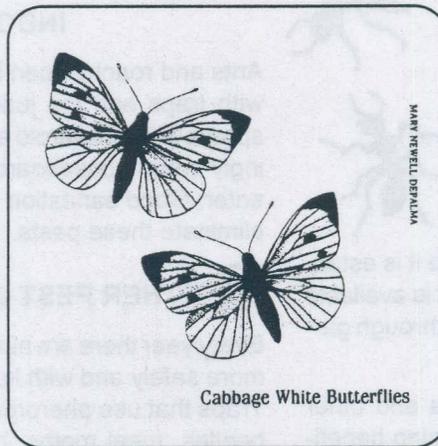
AND YOUR DECISIONS about your lawn and garden are important to keeping our drinking water clean and healthful. Wellesley relies on groundwater for its municipal wells. Whatever you put on your lawn or hose down the storm drain has to be removed because, sooner or later, the water comes out of your tap.

IF YOU DO YOUR OWN lawn care and pest control, you can get information on wise pesticide use from the Bio-Integral Resource Center (B-I-R-C) at (510) 524-2567 or by reading Rodale's *Guide to Organic Gardening*. Most local garden centers have knowledgeable experts for you to consult.

IF YOU HIRE A FIRM to apply pesticides, ask whether the firm is registered with the Town of Wellesley's Health Department in the Sprague Building on Oak Street. Also ask whether the firm offers IPM (Integrated Pest Management) or organic lawn care. Find an applicator who shares your philosophy about the environment—don't settle for excessive pesticide use!

UNDER TOWN BYLAW pesticide applicators are required to register with the Health Department to be sure that they are properly licensed and aware of the location of town wells. Registered appli-

cators will display a Town of Wellesley Health Department decal on their trucks so that you are assured you are dealing with a legitimate firm. The current decal is small and white, so you may need to look closely or to ask the applicator to show it to you.



Do you enjoy swimming and sailing? Then remember that green lawns make green lakes. Many Wellesley residents are learning to live with nature. Ask yourself—do you *really* need a perfect lawn or spotless vegetables? Is an Emerald City lawn worth polluting the environment?

IF YOU DO USE PESTICIDES, be sure to use the least toxic method of control. Learn about alternatives to synthetic pesticides. Use pesticides only where and when pests are present. Targeting will solve your problem and greatly reduce the amount of pesticide used. In many cases you will save time and money.

Be sure to read and follow label directions, including safety precautions. Don't breathe pesticide spray or let children or pets play on pesticide-damp lawns. Pesticides work best at labelled rates. Adding more does not make them more effective. Misuse is dangerous as well as illegal.



Helpful Hints

WEED CONTROL

Broadleaf weeds such as dandelions can be controlled by digging them out with a long-handled weeding device. Weeds in driveway and sidewalk cracks can be controlled with table salt. Just pour a little salt in the cracks where weeds usually sprout. Don't overdo it, especially if you use salt-based de-icers in winter, and use only on paved areas.

Spot weeding in lawns can be accomplished with a hand-weeding device or with a biological weed-killer such as "Sharpshooter" or "Superfast," manufactured by Ringer Corporation. This is non-selective, so spray carefully to avoid killing adjacent lawn areas.

TURF INSECTS

Grubs can be controlled with a biological preparation called Milky Spore (*Bacillus popilliae*). BP is toxic only to grubs. Treatment for a typical property costs \$25-\$35 but will last for several years. BP requires about a year to become effective, but once it is established no further treatment is necessary. It is available through Fairfax Labs (914)-266-3705 and through garden centers.

Sod webworms, cutworms, root maggots and other soil-dwelling pests can be controlled by using beneficial nematodes—microscopic worms which seek out and prey on these pests. "Scanmask" and "Biosafe" are two of the brands available.

TREE, SHRUB & GARDEN PESTS

Sucking insects such as aphids, whitefly, mealybugs and scale insects can be controlled with insecticidal soaps or pyrethrin-based insecticides. Some common brands on the market are "Safer," "Schultz," "Orthoganic" and "Necessary Organics." Another proven control method is the use of horticultural oils which smother the insects. "Sunspray" is one brand.

Worms and caterpillars such as gypsy moths, tomato hornworm, and tent caterpillar can be controlled with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (BT), a microbial control agent which is toxic only to caterpillars. Caterpillars feeding on BT stop eating and die within 3-4 days. You won't see an immediate body count, but the caterpillars can no longer digest and will die without doing further damage. A common brand of BT is "Dipel."

Bugs, beetles and other chewing insects can be killed with pyrethrin-based insecticides (see the brands mentioned above) or Sabadilla dust.

INDOOR PESTS

Ants and roaches can be controlled with boric acid or with traps and the judicious use of sprays. Choose sprays with pyrethroid active ingredients and use sparingly around baseboards and cracks where pests can enter. Good sanitation and sealing cracks will help to eliminate these pests.

OTHER PEST CONTROL METHODS

Every year there are new advances in controlling pests more safely and with less impact on the environment. Traps that use pheromone lures to capture Japanese beetles, meal moths, houseflies and many other insects are on the market. There are microbial controls for mosquito larvae, Colorado potato beetle, and others. Two companies that specialize in bio-rational pest control are:

Gardener's Supply: (802) 863-1700
Gardens Alive: (812) 537-8650.

*THE NEXT TIME YOU HAVE A PEST PROBLEM,
think about how to solve it without
using synthetic pesticides.*

REMEMBER TO STORE AND DISPOSE OF PESTICIDES CAREFULLY