



**Seeding,
Weeding
and mulch
more**

For the avid gardener

Gardeners should not rely on sprays only to combat plant pests. While pesticides, properly used, are effective against insect and disease problems, gardeners can add an extra measure of control through cultural practices including thorough garden clean-up at this time of year.

Many insects and disease organisms spend the winter in gardens and yards on, in, or under plant debris. By removing and discarding dead plants, weeds, fallen leaves, fruits and twigs, and dead branches, some sources of

next years problems can be eliminated.

For example, brown rot of peaches is caused by a fungus that overwinters on mummied fruits and twig cankers. These are the source of next years infection; clean-up and pruning are important. The fungus that causes the notorious blackspot of roses survives winter in the fallen leaves, as do many of the leaf disease fungi. Raking and removal are good added control measures.

The squash bug is a pest that is difficult to control, even with pesticides. The adult overwinters under garden debris, so destroying old vines and other refuse is an important step toward reducing populations. The iris borer, a moth, lays eggs in late summer on the old leaves and other nearby plant litter. Fall clean-up will clean up potential borers.

These few examples illustrate why cleaning the garden is an

important phase in a gardener's campaign against garden pests. It is best not to compost materials

that are diseased or post infested unless the material will not be used for several years.

Lebanon Extension agent attend Nat'l 4-H meeting

LEBANON — Linda Rohrbach, Lebanon County 4-H Youth agent, recently attended the National 4-H Agents Association Meeting held last week in Baltimore, Maryland. The annual meeting brought together 4-H professionals from across the country to share program ideas and strategies and to attend professional development seminars.

Extension Use of Electronics and Computer Technology; 4-H Council Effectiveness Training; Public Relations; 4-H Camp Counselor Training; Urban 4-H Programs; and Today's Teens.

Keynote speaker for the event was Eugene Williams, USDA deputy administrator for 4-H and Youth programs. His topic was "4-H...A Creative Future."

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