

Enemies Of Vegetable Insect Pests May Be Beneficial

ITHACA, N.Y. — Biological control of insect pests — the use of natural enemies or "good bugs" to control the pest species — gives farmers and gardeners a safe, environmentally friendly means of pest management. But recognizing the good ones and their impact can be difficult.

A manual and companion slide program, "Natural Enemies of Vegetable Insect Pests," published by Cornell Cooperative Extension, provides gardeners, farmers, educators and extension and regulatory personnel with the information necessary to recognize insect natural enemies, conserve their numbers and enhance their ability

to control pests.

Using good insects to control the pest species is known as biological control. This is one component of the pest control strategy known as integrated pest management which uses several means to control insect pests to avoid unnecessary use of conventional chemical insecticides.

However, to successfully use non-chemical, integrated, pest management strategies one must understand the basic biology of the pest insects as well as that of their natural enemies. The manual contains a general introduction to insect biology and ecology and the concept and practice of integrated

pest management making the information useful regardless of crop or location.

The 64-page manual contains 85 color photographs and numerous drawings of 25 key groups of natural enemies, including insect predators, parasitoids, and diseases.

"Natural Enemies of Vegetable Insect Pests" is available for \$22.50, which includes postage and handling, from the Cornell University Resource Center, 8 BTP, Ithaca, NY 14850. A slide set with abbreviated text is also available.

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