



HYANNIS
COUNTRY GARDEN

Dealing with Cape Cod's Most Asked About Insects

1. **Winter moth larvae** – active from early April into early June, mostly on maples, fruit trees, birch, oaks and roses. Use Spinosad on non-blooming trees.
2. **Scale** – it can look like tiny bits of cotton or like tan dots or brown bumps. Look for “sooty mold” – charcoal grey coating on top of leaves or even on cars, boats etc. This is your sign that there is a sucking insect at work, and this could be scale. Horticultural oil.
3. **Whitefly** – frequently a problem on Japanese Holly bushes – look for sooty mold as above, and tiny white insects when you shake the shrubs. Occasionally seen on other plants. Treat with horticultural oil or insecticidal soap.
4. **Lacebug** – watch for yellow stippling on the leaves of Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Pieris (aka Andromeda). The underside of leaves will look dirty. Horticultural oil.
5. **Grubs** – Use the square foot test: if you can roll up a square foot of turf and only find fewer than 8 grubs you don't really have a problem. You'll naturally encounter a few when you dig in soil. Let all gardens and lawns dry out between watering, because Japanese and Asiatic garden beetles like to lay their eggs in damp earth. If treatment is needed, use Milky Spore or beneficial nematodes.
6. **Earwigs** – often found on new foliage on dahlias and butterfly bush, or new annuals and vegetables in your garden. Dust with diatomaceous earth. Usually not a problem later in summer...in fact, they are one of the beneficial insects that break down dead plant materials.
7. **Red Leaf Lily Beetle** – found on oriental and Asiatic lilies. The larvae are most destructive. Dust with diatomaceous earth and/or spray with spinosad. Handpick adults.
8. **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid** – cotton-like insects found on hemlocks. Spray 2x in spring and again 2x in fall. Do not fertilize as this makes the insect flourish.
9. **Slugs** – most active in spring and in places that are kept damp. Dust plants with diatomaceous earth, scatter Sluggo or Sluggo Plus around infested plants.
10. **Turpentine borer** – a problem on our native pitch pines, because the borer carries the bluestain fungus that kills trees. Use an insecticide labeled for “bark beetles.”
11. **Ticks** – spray your clothing with an insect repellent when going outside. After being out in the garden, fields or woods, change out of clothing immediately and put that in the washer and dryer. Shower and look for ticks.

12. **Nantucket Pine Tipmoth** – larvae eat tips of mugo and other pines. Spray every two weeks from mid-April through late-June with spinosad.

Insect pests in Vegetable Gardens

NOTE: All veggie garden insect pests are better controlled if the garden is cleaned out in the fall and plant debris composted far away from the garden. Turning the soil in the late fall also helps as the pupae that over-winter in the soil are then frozen or eaten by birds.

Colorado Potato beetle (worst on potatoes, some on tomatoes. Spinosad)

Squash Vine Borer (layer of wood ash on the ground when plants are small, continue to dust stems with wood ash as the plants grow. Alternative: inspect plants every four days, looking for a hole with greenish frass -caterpillar poop coming out of the underside of stems. When you see that, slit the vine until you find the borer and remove it. Bury that part of the vine shallowly and cover with some compost so that it stays moist and makes more roots. Farmer cure from 1800's: every 4 or 5 days wipe vines on all sides with cloth to remove the tiny eggs.)

Tomato Hornworm If big sections of your tomato plants start to disappear, look for what appears to be chunks of black pepper below the damage. This is frass - caterpillar poop. Look carefully for the hornworm – fat and green – and remove. Squash it or leave on lawn for the crows to find.

Cutworm Larvae in the soil that chew through young stems. Wrap stems of young plants with a small piece of newspaper or slip a 3" tall paper or cardboard tube over the plants and bury the bottom of that tube an inch in the soil. Dust around seedlings with DE.

Squash Bug Adult lays eggs on underside of squash and cucumber leaves – look for clusters of orange-ish color eggs and destroy them. Squash the eggs.

Cucumber beetle triped beetles feed on cucumbers, melons, and squash spread the cucumber wilt bacteria and viruses into the plants. Hang yellow sticky traps near but not next to these plants and "bait" with bay leaf, or small cloth bag of cinnamon, allspice or cloves.