

Control of Household Insects

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COCKROACHES

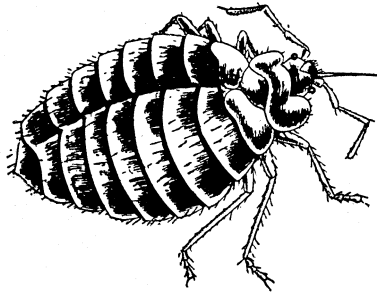
To rid your home of cockroaches, or to prevent them from starting, keep places where they hide treated with proper poisons. Longlasting action of some of the new materials now available are ideal for this use.

You will get good kills by using a combination of a 5 percent DDT household spray, and a 10 percent DDT dust. Remove all dishes and food from cupboards and thoroughly scrub the shelves with soap and water. When they have dried, spray under sides of shelves, cupboard walls, kitchen walls around the sink and cupboard, and any other surface over which the roaches might walk. Care should be taken not to apply the spray where it might cause an unsightly stain. Ten percent DDT dust should be blown into hiding places not reached by the spray. Particular attention should be paid to treating behind false walls in the cupboard or any other dark place.

A new insecticide, Chlordane (also known as 1068 and Octa-Klor), is very effective against roaches. A three percent Chlordane household spray, applied as suggested above, will give a good control. Little is known about its toxicity to man, however. It should be used with care.

One complete treatment will protect the home for two to three months. If, three weeks later, roaches are still present, some hiding place was not found. These must be found and treated.



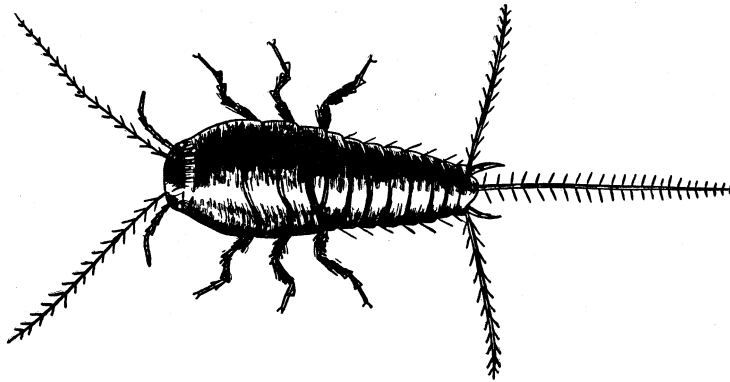
BEDBUGS

In the past, bedbugs have been hard to control and many housewives have fought these bugs for years before getting rid of them. With the help of DDT, it is now possible to rid a home of these pests within a few days.

The job consists of treating all surfaces over which the bedbugs travel with five percent household spray. Lightly, but carefully, cover all baseboards, bed frames, mattresses, and even pillows, with the spray. When treating the mattress, spray both side as well as the four edges. It is not necessary to soak the mattress cover with oil, a thin film of the spray is all that is required. Care should be given to getting the spray into the folds along edges of mattress and pillows.

Wait several hours after treating before remaking the bed.

One good treatment will protect the home from bedbugs for about three months or longer. If bedbugs appear in less time, the first treatment was not enough and should be repeated.

SILVERFISH

Great damage to stored papers, books, wall paper, and sometimes to starched clothing, rayons, and window curtains is caused by silverfish and fire brats. These small insects usually hide during the day and feed at night, and are often

not seen by the housewife until extensive damage has been done.

Killing silverfish should begin in places where they are living in greatest numbers. Although they will breed in nearly any part of the house, they prefer warm and moist conditions found in such places as basements, laundry rooms, and attics. The best control can be had by using a five percent DDT household spray in these places. Enough spray should be used to moisten the surfaces over which the silverfish will crawl. Closets, baseboards, door and window casings, pipes running through walls or floors and any other place where the insects might hide should also be sprayed. One thorough spraying will be effective for several months.

Spraying around open fires should be avoided. If there is a fire hazard from using the DDT oil spray, a ten percent DDT powder can be substituted.

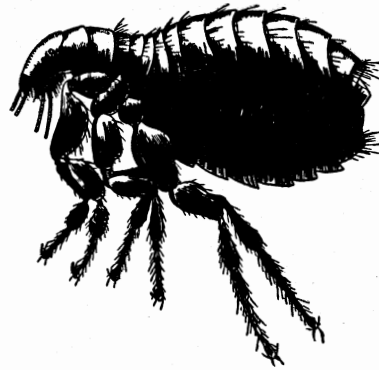
Control from DDT should not be expected overnight. But there will be a reduction in the number of silverfish if DDT is used in the right amounts.

FLEAS

Fleas normally live in the dust on the floors of barns, hog houses, etc., but sometimes breed in the home. Dust and debris in and under the rugs is food for the young fleas.

Control should begin by treating dusty floors in hog houses, barns, sheds, etc., with a ten percent DDT dust, or a two percent DDT spray. This spray can be made by mixing one pound of 50 percent powder into three gallons of water. DDT will kill the young fleas as soon as they hatch, and if all breeding places are treated, the numbers can soon be reduced. One pound of dust, or one gallon of the spray will be sufficient to treat 1,000 square feet of floor space.

Fleas that are breeding inside the home are usually brought in on pests. Eggs are laid on the animals, and sift out of the hair while the pets are on the rugs. Control in these cases should begin by killing the fleas on the pets. Dogs can be dusted with a ten percent DDT dust, and cats



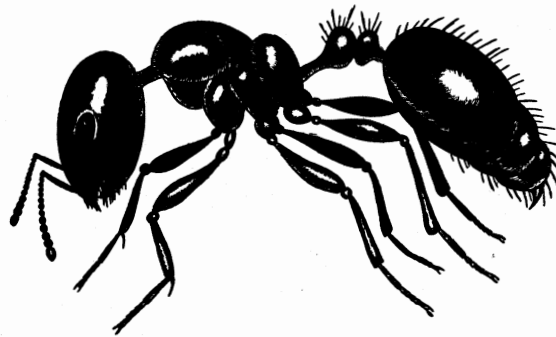
should be treated with a rotenone compound since DDT is very poisonous to them. About a tablespoonful of the DDT sprinkled down the back of the dog and thoroughly rubbed into the hair coat, will kill the fleas.

To kill fleas that have become established in the house, spray with a five percent DDT household spray, or dust with a ten percent DDT dust in the places where they are found. Rugs may be lightly sprayed on both sides with the household spray (if it does not cause staining), and the floor beneath should either be sprayed or dusted. If the pests are living in the basement, floors and walls should be sprayed with the five percent household spray.

HOUSE ANTS

The first step in killing ants in the home is to try to find the nest. This can be done by following back along the line of ants that are entering the home. Nests will most often be found outside the house, but sometimes they will be located between the floors, behind baseboards, in window sills, etc.

After the nest is found, blow 10 percent DDT dust inside and around it. Not all kinds of ants are killed by DDT, and if they are still alive after two applications have been made



on successive days, it will be necessary to fumigate them with orthodichlorobenzene. Two teaspoonsful of this chemical, which can be bought at nearly any drug store, poured in the entrance of the nest, will kill the nest.

If the nest cannot be found, then measures must be taken to kill all the ants that come into the house. Dust with a 10 percent DDT dust, or spray with a five percent DDT household spray around the window sills, drain boards, foundations, or any other places over which the ants travel. Care should be taken not to spray surfaces that will be stained.

Poisoned baits should be used on ants on which DDT has no effect. For those that feed on sweets, mix four ounces of sugar into a quart of water and add $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of tartar emetic. The meat- and grease-feeding ants can be baited with $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce of tartar emetic in five ounces of lard or bacon fryings. Put the baits in small cans or pill boxes with tight covers, punch several $\frac{1}{4}$ inch holes in the top, and place near where the ants have been feeding. Control cannot be expected from this method in less than about two weeks.

TARTAR EMETIC IS VERY POISONOUS TO HUMANS, AND EXTREME CAUTION MUST BE TAKEN WITH ITS USE.

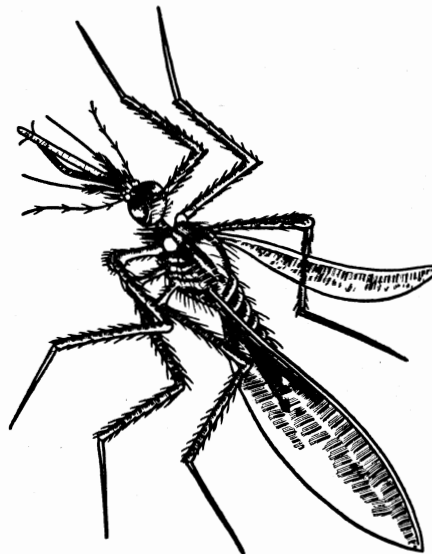
MOSQUITOES

Mosquitoes not only are a nuisance but are dangerous disease carriers. Both yellow fever and malaria are carried by these pests. There are still several million cases of malaria every year in the United States.

To get rid of mosquitoes, breeding places must be destroyed as well as killing adults. The young have to live in water, but they will grow under a wide range of conditions. People think of swampy areas as the mosquito breeding grounds. But they will also grow in water left in vases, old tin cans, garden pools, or nearly any puddle left undisturbed for several weeks. These places must be done away with before the mosquitoes can be reduced.

An effort should also be made to kill the adult mosquitoes before they enter the home. Screens should be painted with DDT, and it should also be sprayed around the doors as for fly control. Since they usually rest in shaded and cool places during the day, many can often be killed by spraying the side of the house behind shrubbery, in basement door ways, under porches, etc.

To kill those that have entered the house, space sprays, such as pyrethrum, or the more expensive aerosol bombs

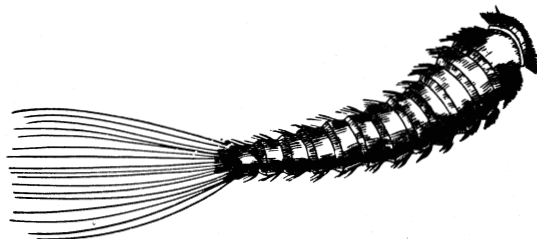


may be used. The killing action of these sprays generally last for only a few minutes, and long action should not be expected.

If the ceilings will not be stained, they may be sprayed with a five percent DDT household spray as described under fly control.

CARPET BEETLES

Damage often blamed on clothes moths may be caused by carpet beetles. They are very common during the summer, and many times homes become infested before the housewife realizes it.



The young cause damage similar to that of the clothes moth. But they will attack more materials. Besides woolens, furs, feathers, etc., these pests sometimes damage silks, cottons, cereals, dried meats, and other plant and animal products.

Carpet beetles are prevented by good housekeeping practices, and killing those found in the home.

Vacuuming both sides of rugs regularly will often prevent damage. If caught before damage is too severe, spraying both sides of the rugs lightly with a five percent DDT household spray (if it does not cause any staining) and spraying the floor beneath will help. If carpets are badly infested, it is best to have them cleaned by a rug cleaning firm.

Damage to overstuffed furniture can be avoided by vacuuming often. If many beetles are found in this type of furniture, fumigate or re-upholster.

Old woolens, furs, and pillows, etc., offer ideal condi-



tions for this pest to start in the home. These materials should never be left unprotected in closets or attics. Store them in tight containers and protect with naphthalene flakes.

CLOTHES MOTH

One of the most dreaded and destructive of all household pests is the clothes moth. Great damage results from the young of the moth feeding on woolens, furs, feathers, and other animal-produced materials.

Control consists of keeping adult moths from laying eggs on clothing that will be damaged.

Cold storage of clothes offers good protection if proper temperatures are kept. Storage in tight paper bags, or "moth bags," will prevent damage if the clothing is first cleaned or laundered, and if the bags are perfectly tight. Cleaning is necessary to remove any moths or eggs that might be present.

A five percent DDT household spray applied to closet walls will kill all moths touching it. Since the young do not leave the clothing until after doing their damage, they will not be affected by the wall spraying. "*So, DDT will not protect all clothes in the closet.*" It should be used along with other measures for good control.

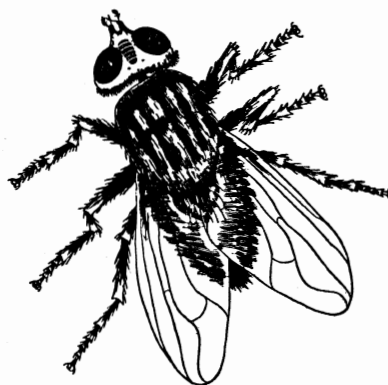
Cedar-lined closets will not completely prevent moth damage. Although moths do not like the cedar "smell," the odor decreases with the age of the closet, and within a few years, moth damage may again show up.

Clothing stored in trunks or other tight places can be protected by adding naphthalene flakes. One to three pounds will protect an average size trunk. These flakes will gradually disappear. All trunks and containers should be checked once in a while and flakes added as needed.

HOUSE FLIES

The house fly is the filthiest, yet the most common, of all insects around the home. It feeds and breeds in filth and infects all food it touches.

Besides being annoying, flies spread disease. The feet have glands that secrete a sticky substance. The legs have many small



hairs that pick up all kinds of germs. Several diseases, such as typhoid, cholera, and dysentery are spread by this pest.

In the past, house flies have been hard to control. With the discovery of DDT, however, this has changed, and **IT IS NOW ENTIRELY POSSIBLE FOR HOUSE FLIES TO BE COMPLETELY ELIMINATED FROM EVERY HOME IN OKLAHOMA.**

Control should begin with getting rid of all breeding places. All manure should be cleaned from barns, sheds, and chicken houses, and spread on the fields. It is foolish to clean the stables and pile the manure near the barns. Garbage should be kept in tight containers at all times, and thrown away or destroyed often. Flies will breed in nearly any kind of rotten material and this sort of breeding place must be kept down if flies are to be eliminated.

After the buildings have been cleaned, spray walls and ceilings with a two percent DDT spray. This spray can be made by mixing one pound of 50 percent DDT powder in three gallons of water. Any sprayer that will handle this mixture can be used. On many farms, bucket pumps, barrel sprayers, and compressed air garden sprayers are depended on for this work. It is not necessary to have a large power outfit to do a good job.

After all the out buildings are sprayed with DDT, spray the back porch—inside and out—and around the back door. Screen doors and window screens should be painted with the two and one-half percent DDT spray or with a five percent DDT household spray if the white residue left by the other material is not liked. More DDT can be made to stick to screens if it is painted on with a brush instead of sprayed.

Although a five percent DDT household spray can be used to treat ceilings of rooms in the house (if it does not cause any staining), this is not always necessary. If a good job has been done on eliminating breeding places, the few flies that do come into the house can be killed by ordinary fly sprays.