

Summer is the peak season for home gardening, and unfortunately, for garden insect pest activity, too.

If you thought you saw a lot of bugs in the garden during spring, you'll be surprised at the hordes of pest insects you'll see around the garden this summer.

Of course, not all of these insects are bad. There are beneficial bugs that can help if you don't kill them. The following is a list of insects both good and bad to look for in the summer garden.

Harmful Insects:

-Earwigs - A pest of seedlings. They also infest ears of corn and leafy vegetables. Earwigs are light to dark brown in color and about 5/8 inch long at maturity. Their most notable characteristic is a forcep-like appendage on the rear end of the abdomen. Sevin and diazinon insecticides are recommended for control.



-Wireworms - Brown, jointed larvae of click beetles, 3/8 to 1/2 inch long. Wireworms are tan to black in color. They kill young plants, and damage edible roots and tubers. Diazinon insecticide is recommended for control.

-Western spotted cucumber beetle - Yellowish-green, black-spotted beetle about 1/4 inch long. It is common in western Oregon. Adults attack seedlings and green pods. Diazinon and malathion insecticides are recommended for control.



-Thrips - Tiny insects about 1/16 inch long, and pale yellow to light brown in color. They feed on plant juices causing foliage to turn white or silvery.



and wilt. Thrips are especially hard on onion crops. Diazinon and malathion insecticides are recommended for control.

-Tuber (or potato) flea beetle - Bronze-black, jumping beetle 1/16 to 1/8 inch long. Flea beetles feed on foliage giving the leaves a "shot-hole" appearance. Sevin and rotenone insecticides are recommended for control.



Beneficial Insects

-Minute damsel bug - Tan to gray colored flying insect about 1/2 inch long. Damsel bug adults and nymphs which look like adults but lack wings, feed on aphids, leafhoppers, and spider mites.



-Minute pirate bug - An oval-shaped, very flat insect 1/16 to 1/8 inch long. Adults have very conspicuous black and white markings. Pirate bugs feed on thrips, spider mites, and aphids.



-Snakefly - A flying insect about 3/8 inch long. Snakeflies look like miniature praying mantises with their long neck-like thorax and large flattened head. They feed on aphids, spider mites, and leafhoppers.



-Green lacewing - A flying insect about 5/8 to 1 inch long. Green lacewings have four delicate transparent wings with many veins and crossveins. They feed on aphids, spider mites, and leafhoppers.



-Lady beetles - A small flying beetle 3/16 to 1/4 inch long and oval in shape. Lady beetles are known for their black-spotted, red orange wing covers. They feed on mealybugs, aphids, and spider mites.



-Garden spiders of various types - All have eight legs and are two inches long in size or smaller. They feed on all sorts of garden pest insects.

Sports Opinion

The Sixth Man

By Ashley Conklin

As the National Football League readies for another season (with the first games slated for September 7) it is now time for a full, team by team preview.

I'll start with the American Football Conference and rank the teams in the order I think they'll finish.

AFC East

-New York Jets - Last season the Jets transformed themselves into winners (an 11-5 record and a wild berth in the play-offs). This season the Jets seem to have all of the tools needed to win the rugged AFC East and possibly contend for the AFC spot in the Super Bowl.

The emergence of the Jets came about due to the emergence of quarterback Ken O'Brien.

O'Brien was the top ranked quarterback in the NFL (96.2 rating points). The success of the Jets this season will depend on the durability of running back Freeman McNeil and the ability of the offensive line.

McNeil gained 1,331 yards on the ground last season, the fifth-best figure in the league. McNeil faltered in the last half of the season and has failed to complete a 16-game schedule in his five-year career. The Jets hope his sore ribs will hold up this season and they must if the Jets want to go anywhere in the playoffs.

If McNeil stays healthy, the offensive line allows fewer sacks, and O'Brien has another banner year, don't be surprised to see the Jets in Super Bowl XXI.

-New England Patriots - Can the Patriots rebound from the miserable 46-10 beating they received by the Chicago Bears in last season's Super Bowl? That is the big question in the AFC this season.

The quarterback quagmire faced by head coach Raymond Berry must be solved.

Does he start incumbent Tony Eason who led the Patriots in the last four games of the season and into the Super Bowl? Or does he start veteran Steve Grogan who rallied the team for six straight victories in the middle of the last season?

Berry has named Eason starter for now. Third string quarterback Tom Ramsey looked impressive in Saturday's Hall of Fame game (254 yards passing), but Berry stated he will remain as just the third string quarterback.

The Patriots defense, which produced an AFC-high 47 turnovers last season, is rock solid with linebackers Steve Nelson and Andre Tippett, cornerback Raymond Clayborn, and safety Fred Marion.

The offensive line lost super veteran John Hannah (13 years) to retirement. His leadership will be sorely missed on a team that was said in the off season to have a drug problem.

-Miami Dolphins - If the team that made it to the Super Bowl after the 1984 season (a 38-16 loss to the San Francisco) wishes to return, they must patch up their defense.

In the 28-team NFL, the Dolphins ranked 23rd overall in the 1985 season. Miami hopes those problems will be solved by top draft pick John Offerdahl, a linebacker from Western Michigan.

The Dolphins also need help for the defensive line and running attack. The front three of Mike Charles, Doug Betters, and Kim Bokamper led the Dolphins to just 38 sacks (19th in the NFL).

The weak running game is led by Tony Nathan (667 yards in 1985). But the rushing game as a whole was only 17th in the league.

The passing game is still explosive with Dan Marino throwing to wide receivers Mark Clayton, Mark Duper, and Nat Moore.

-Indianapolis Colts - Probably the best thing about the Colts is their punting average leader. Unfortunately punting doesn't win games. However, the Colts should improve on last year's 5-11 record with the acquisition of Dallas Cowboy quarterback Gary Hogeboom and the drafting of another quarterback, Jack Trudeau (Illinois).

-Buffalo Bills - Will the Bills finish at 2-14 for the third straight year. Probably not as there is no way for them to go but up. The Bills desperately need a solid quarterback.

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