

'IPM' Is Gardener's Best Defense

Dear Plant Doctor: I planted canna lilies two or three years ago thinking I would have a trouble-free plant. But each year by the time young shoots come through the ground, the worms get them.

By that I mean the leaves curl up and no bloom comes out; it's just like each leaf is rolled up and turns brown. If you uncurl that leaf, it's like a web and worms are in there.

So my cannas are a complete failure. What can I do to get rid of these worms?

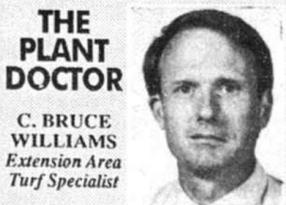
Thank you.
Answer: Canna lilies are a great low-maintenance flowering perennial for eastern North Carolina. I cannot be sure but the damage you describe sounds like the canna leaf roller (*Calpodex ethlius*) or the lesser canna leaf roller (*Geshna canalis*) or the greenhouse leaf tier (*Udea rubigalis*). I would need to examine the insect larva or adult to be sure of the species.

Control by insecticides is not usually effective unless used in concert with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. The larva of these insects can be killed by gently pinching the rolled leaves. Follow this treatment with the application of an insecticide such as Sevin, Orthene or Dipel. Dipel is a prepared formulation of a living bacteria, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, that is an excellent alternative to chemical insecticides. Make sure the insecticide gets inside buds if possible. After cannas have gone dormant, cut off and remove all dried plant matter, mulch and other surface organic matter. Replace old mulch with fresh compost, leaf mold or pine straw mulch. Repeat this process every autumn.

Next year keep an eye out for this pest, but I will bet he'll be gone!

Fertilize cannas with two to three cups of 8-8-8 per 100 square feet of plant bed in mid-May and again in mid-July for maximum growth and bloom. Good luck!

Dear Plant Doctor: I am really getting frustrated with all the !%?#&! bugs in my vegetable garden! I grew a garden for 25 years at my home in the Northeast and never



THE PLANT DOCTOR
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had these problems. My squash are already under attack from something. Eggplant leaves look like they were used for a shotgun target. Tomato plants were eaten off at ground level two days after I planted them.

Help me solve my bug problems. What pesticide will kill all these bugs?

Answer: Welcome to the southeastern North Carolina! We have so many bugs in this area that plants eat bugs to survive (like the Venus Fly Trap!).

I have often hoped that the Rodale folks (*Organic Gardening* magazine) from Pennsylvania would come to southeastern North Carolina for one of their demonstration gardens. A good gardener in this area would be a great gardener in any other part of the country.

A productive vegetable garden requires lots of work, experience, luck and a thorough knowledge of plants and pests. Integrated Pest Management is the secret to successful pest control in your garden. This requires you to be aware of potential insect problems and anticipate their damage and be prepared for their control.

At least 25 major insect pests attack the average vegetable garden in this area, but control is possible. You may be under attack from borers on your squash, flea beetles on your eggplant, and cutworms on your tomato, but I cannot be sure until I see the damage and/or the insect pest. The first step in controlling pests is to identify them.

North Carolina has one of the best Cooperative Extension Service orga-

nizations to support agriculture in the United States. You can obtain help with many of your gardening problems by calling or visiting the Cooperative Extension Service nearest you.

I am sending you a copy of "Insect Control for Vegetable Gardeners," AG19, that will help you learn about some of the insects invading your garden and list potential options for control. A copy of this publication can be obtained from N.C. Cooperative Extension or by sending me a SASE.

Send your comments or questions to The Plant Doctor, P.O. Box 109, Bolivia, N.C. 28422.

Literacy Meeting Set For Leland

The Brunswick County Literacy Council will sponsor a meeting for people in the Leland and North Brunswick areas interested in improving literacy.

It will be held Wednesday, June 16, at 7 p.m. at the Brunswick Community College Industrial Education Center in the Leland Industrial Park.

For more information, call the literacy council at 754-7323. BCLC provides free one-on-one tutoring to Brunswick County residents who want to improve their basic reading and writing skills.



PHOTO BY MARTHA HANNON

Baskets Brighten Yard

A well-groomed yard accented with hanging baskets of red geraniums, Boston fern and variegated petunias took honors as the June Yard of the Month for Carolina Shores Garden Club, said Evelyn Hannaway, president. Located at 47 Carolina Shores Parkway, it is the home of Don and Ellen Rose.

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Eighth-Graders Are Chosen For Good Citizenship Awards

Four eighth-grade students, one from each Brunswick County middle school, have been selected to receive special citizenship awards from the Brunswick County Community Watch Association.

Students honored with the awards were nominated by each school's faculty as their "outstanding eighth-grade citizen," said Don Gates, the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department crime prevention officer.

"This is to reward the eighth-grader who best displays the attributes of a good citizen," Gates said.

Scheduled to receive the awards were Leah Dianne Slone of Ocean Isle Beach, a student at Shallotte Middle School; Scott Chestnut, Nankina, Waccamaw School; Tabitha

Jackson, Leland, Leland Middle School; and Leslie Myrie Jr., Southport, South Brunswick Middle School.

Each were presented with a certificate and a \$50 savings bond at their school's annual awards presentation.

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