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Chadwick Yard Selected

The Sea Trail Sugar Sands "Yard of the Month" winners for August are Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Chadwick of East Fairway Drive, Sunset Beach. The color contrast of white pebbles and dark bark mulch, with no grass, gives an Oriental feeling to the yard. A stone pagoda and stepping stones help complete the effect.



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September Yard Of Month

The Holden Beach Beautification Committee has selected the yard of Lillian Wolfe and John Calder of 188 Greensboro St. as yard of the month for September. The landscaping includes gardenias, roses and crepe myrtles.

Explore Pest Control Alternatives

I recently conducted a seminar on alternative pest control and was surprised at the interest, knowledge, and sophistication of the participants.

Alternative pest control refers to using methods of pest control other than synthetic pesticides. Alternative pest control has always been a major part (but not the sole component) of the widely used Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to pest control. The IPM approach advocates using low environmental impact pest control measures first and chemical control only as a last resort. IPM requires a gardener to be well educated in pest control, plant selection and use good garden management techniques.

A "revolution" in the new biorational pest control strategies is slowly gaining credibility with the scientific, business and gardening communities. A number of non-chemical pest control products are available to the homeowner and gardener that are very effective and environmentally safe. These products are already or soon will be another weapon in the IPM arsenal.

One of the "tried and true" biocontrols for Lepidopteran larva control (like cabbage loopers and other caterpillars) is a bacteria called *Bacillus thuringiensis* or Bt. The bacteria is harmless to humans and other animals but will kill many types of moth larva. The Bt bacteria will stop caterpillars from feeding soon after they come in contact with the product and eventually kill them. Although the bacteria will not control 100 percent of the "worms," control is usually sufficient for most gardeners.

Some of the companies and trade names of bacterial formulations now on the market include Biobit (DuPont), Dipel (Abbott), Agree (Ciba Geigy), XenTari (Abbott), Larvo Bt (Fermone Corp), Condor (Ecogen), Cutless (Ecogen) Foil (Ecogen), and Javelin (Sandoz). Some of these products even claim to kill Colorado potato beetles, flies, ants and other common garden pests.

Insect parasitic nematodes are proving effective against some kinds of insects. These nematodes attack only certain species of insects. The nematodes live in the soil and are attracted to the insect's breathing holes (spiracles) by carbon dioxide. The nematodes enter the insect

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through the breathing holes and kill the pest by releasing a toxin into the blood stream of the insect.

The nematodes reproduce in the carcass of the dead insect and ready themselves for their next victim. Products called Exhibit (Ciba Geigy) or BioSafe (Biogen) contain these insect killing nematodes.

Several species of parasitic wasps are proving effective against the fall armyworm, corn earworm and diamondback caterpillar. Most of these wasps are available only from special sources and not generally available to the public. However, Lady Beetles, lacewings, praying mantis, green garden spiders and other insect predators can be purchased live or in pupa form from select supply firms.

Pheromones can be described as

substances naturally produced by insects that act upon olfactory sense to cause developmental or behavioral changes. I often refer to pheromones as "smelly hormones" although they produce no objectionable smell to the human nose. Pheromones are available for attracting Japanese beetles and a host of other insects into special insect traps. One product called "Rescue" attracts an insect predator called the soldier bug. The soldier bug supposedly will eat all your pesty bugs.

A host of "natural" biopesticides have been available for several decades. Pyrethrums, rotenone, ryania, neem oil (azadirachtin), soaps and oils provide good control if properly utilized. Neem-based products are still experimental on food crops but BioNeem (Ringer) and Margosan-O (Grace) are available for nonfood crops. Insecticidal soaps, summer and dormant oils, and sound cultural practices offer the home gardener simple but effective and inexpensive pest control.

"High-tech" pest control is here to stay. Try the IPM or Biorational approach in your garden and let me know what you think.

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

CLUB BRIEFS

VFW Of Calabash Honored

Members and auxiliaries of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7288 in Calabash have been awarded a plaque from the J.D. Miller Fund for dedicating the most hours to the Veterans Administration Hospital in Fayetteville.

The plaque, presented at the district meeting Aug. 15 in Wilmington, will stay at the post for one year.

J.D. Miller was past fifth district commander and devoted eight years as hospital chairman. The plaque is a memorial to the most dedicated post, and Post 7288 is the first to receive it.

The next VA hospital visit has been scheduled for Sept. 11.

The auxiliaries sent a \$100 donation to the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project. The monument is to be dedicated on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Tickets cannot be purchased at the door for the organization's Oct. 20 Chinese auction. Tickets can be bought at the post any time after 1 p.m. daily until Oct. 11.

NARFE To Meet

The Brunswick County chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) will hold its monthly meeting at the Sandfiddler Restaurant, Southport, Tuesday, Sept. 14, at noon.

Guest speaker will be Rep. David Redwine, who will discuss tax returns.

Members and prospective members are encouraged to attend. NARFE meetings are open to the public; membership is available to federal retirees and federal employees with at least five years' service.

Local Optimist Club Named Tops In Eastern N.C. Zone

The South Brunswick Islands Optimist Club has been recognized as top club in its multi-county zone by the N.C. East District, Optimist International at the quarterly district meeting in Greenville.

Terry Pilkington, district governor, presented the award to zone lieutenant governor Eric Underwood.

Awards were given on the basis of the club's service to the community and its youth during the period from April through June 1993. The South Brunswick Islands club completed projects such as supporting youth recreational activities and sponsoring fundraisers to benefit the Boys' and Girls' Home at Lake Waccamaw.

The South Brunswick Islands Optimist Club meets on the first and third Tuesday nights of each month at 7 p.m. at the Sizzlin Sirloin Steak House. The club welcomes visitors and invites prospective members "to see first-hand efforts to be a positive influence on the youth in the community."



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OPTIMIST CLUB District Governor Terry Pilkington (right) presents Eric Underwood, zone lieutenant governor, a plaque recognizing the South Brunswick Islands Optimist Club as the top club in the multi-county zone.

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