

MARK CULLEN'S QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO COMMON PESTS

Insect	Identifying	Controlling or Eliminating
<p>Leafcutter Bees</p>	<p>Unlike many garden insects, this bee is relatively harmless and requires little attention. It cuts neat little circles cut from the leaves of rose bushes, hydrangeas and other shrubs as it collects clippings to line a nest for its young. Leaf Cutter Bees are not aggressive and will only eject a very mild sting with far less intensity than a Honey Bee or wasp.</p>	<p>In North America Leafcutter bees play an important role in food production and are used extensively for fruit pollination where there is a shortage of Honey Bees. If you find these bees a nuisance you can prevent them tunneling into rose stems by placing a dab of wax or white glue on the opening.</p>
<p>European Lily Beetle</p>	<p>This is an insect that wreaks havoc in gardens where lilies and fritillaria reside. If not kept under control, it will completely chew its way through leaves, stems and flowers. It can be mistaken for an innocent ladybug, but in fact has no spots and a more elongated body.</p>	<p>At the present time there are no apparent organic solutions but cultivation of the soil early in the season does help. Constantly picking off and squashing the bugs seems to be the best plan. Products such as Sevin and Malathion are effective on adults and larvae but also toxic to bees and other beneficial insects.</p>
<p>Spittlebug/Froghoppers/Cuckoo Spit</p>	<p>This little bug is relatively harmless and can be found on trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals hiding in what appears to be foamy soap bubbles. The foam protects them from predators and hot sun.</p>	<p>You can simply spray off the foam with the hose or use a spray such as "Aim" to eliminate them.</p>
<p>Slugs and Snails</p>	<p>Slugs and snails are the most common culprits for chewing holes in foliage and stripping stems. They decimate seedlings and riddle climbing plants, herbaceous perennials, small annuals, bulbs, vegetables and strawberries with holes. You can often detect their presence by the silvery slime trail left on surviving leaves or soil.</p>	<p>Regularly cultivate soil to expose the eggs. Use mulches of crushed eggshells, gravel or diatomaceous earth to cause discomfort to their bodies. Water in the morning to allow for evaporation because at night slugs and snails are on the prowl searching for succulent morsels in dark, damp places.</p>
<p>Earwigs</p>	<p>This yellowish-brown insect is about 15mm (3/4in.) long and on its head wields a pair of curved pincers. They will skeletonize entire leaves of shrubs, perennials, chrysanthemums, dahlias and clematis.</p>	<p>Earwigs feed at night and by day hide away beneath leaves and in brickwork. Provide your own daytime shelter for them by inverting pots filled with straw or crumpled newspaper. You can then easily remove and destroy them.</p>