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# EC1660 Greenbugs and their Control in Nebraska

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Nebraska  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK  
IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS  
U. of N. Agr. College & U. S. Dept. of Agr. Cooperating  
W. V. Lambert, Director, Lincoln

Extension  
Circular  
1561

E.C. 1561

## HOUSEHOLD PESTS AND HOW TO CONTROL THEM

(By Robert W. Helm, Assistant Extension Entomologist)

Insects are found at one time or another in every home. Some may cause economic loss; others may cause considerable annoyance; and others are merely irritating and of minor importance. This circular contains general suggestions for the control of household pests.

The first step in insect control is to properly identify the insect. Then you will need a source of authentic information as to what insecticide to use and the method of applying it. The information needs to be conveniently available for reference. One good source of information is Extension Circular 1553, "Household Pest Control Chart," which can be obtained from your county agricultural extension agent. It is recommended that this chart be kept some place where members of your family can easily find it for reference. It might be hung on the inside of a cabinet door.

## INSECTICIDE PRECAUTIONS

It doesn't pay to ignore directions when you use insecticides. Be sure to take all suggested precautions seriously.

Remember that insect control chemicals are poisonous and should always be labeled and kept out of reach of children or irresponsible persons. Under lock and key is safest.

When using DDT or Chlordane, take care to prevent contamination of dishes and foodstuffs. Remove dishes from shelves before spraying or dusting. Do not apply insecticides where babies may crawl over the floor, especially if the insecticides are in powder form. Remove birds and fish bowls while treating rooms. Never use an oil spray around open flames or on a hot electric stove unit.



Under certain conditions, the insecticides or the solvents may cause skin irritations. Wash off immediately any spray material which comes in contact with the skin. Avoid excessive inhaling of spray mists.

These precautions are not given to alarm you about using insecticides, but rather to emphasize that a common-sense method of using them should always be employed.

Dusts and sprays kill bugs, but they don't do the gardener any good either; so wear a mask.

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## GENERAL METHODS OF CONTROL

### Sanitation

This might also be entitled "good housekeeping", yet many good housekeepers sometimes suffer from insect visitations. The house itself may be immaculate but poor garbage disposal, sewage disposal or trash disposal can cancel out the efforts of the best housekeeper.

Places where food products are stored should be kept particularly clean. Be careful not to spill such things as sugar or flour. Cans of lard or shortening should not be left open. Cake or bread crumbs should be cleaned up as soon as possible. Food cupboards and dishware storage places should be wiped clean regularly. This is part of insect control.

### Insect-proofing

The house windows and doors should be screened. Give regular care to screening and make certain that it is actually insect-proof.

Inspect carefully where the window frames fit the siding and try to make certain that no openings exist where insects easily enter the house. A good calking compound can be used to close openings. Check the fit of the doors to their frames and sills. Where gaps exist, make the necessary repairs.

## DIRECTIONS FOR MAILING INSECTS

(By O. S. Bare, Extension Entomologist)

Whenever possible, inquiries about insects, injurious or otherwise, should be accompanied by specimens. More than one specimen is desirable, to insure the specimen's receipt in such condition that it can be identified and a satisfactory report made to the sender.

1. Specimens, if dead, should be packed in some soft material such as cotton or cheesecloth, and enclosed in a strong box or other durable container.
2. Dead specimens of soft insect forms such as caterpillars and similar larvae should be sent in alcohol or formaldehyde solution in a strong, small bottle enclosed in a mailing tube or other strong container.
3. Insects should never be enclosed loose in a letter. Even if wrapped in several thicknesses of paper and then mailed in a letter they will in most cases be so badly crushed or otherwise marred that identification will be difficult or impossible.
4. Live insects should be sent in a tight, well wrapped box--along with a small supply of their appropriate food. Air holes in the box are not necessary.
5. Give as full information as you can concerning the specimens. This should include place of collection, conditions under which collected, damage that was being done and to what part of plant, and any other information that you have concerning the insect and its habits.
6. All packages should be marked with the name and address of the sender, and addressed to the Extension Entomologist, or the Department of Entomology, Nebraska College of Agriculture, Lincoln, Nebraska.

### References

- Housefly control.....U.S.D.A. Leaflet 182.  
DDT as a Household Insecticide.....E.C. 1534  
Termite Control in Nebraska.....E.C. 1558  
Cockroach Control.....S.C. 72  
Cockroaches and their Control.....U.S.D.A. Leaflet 144.