

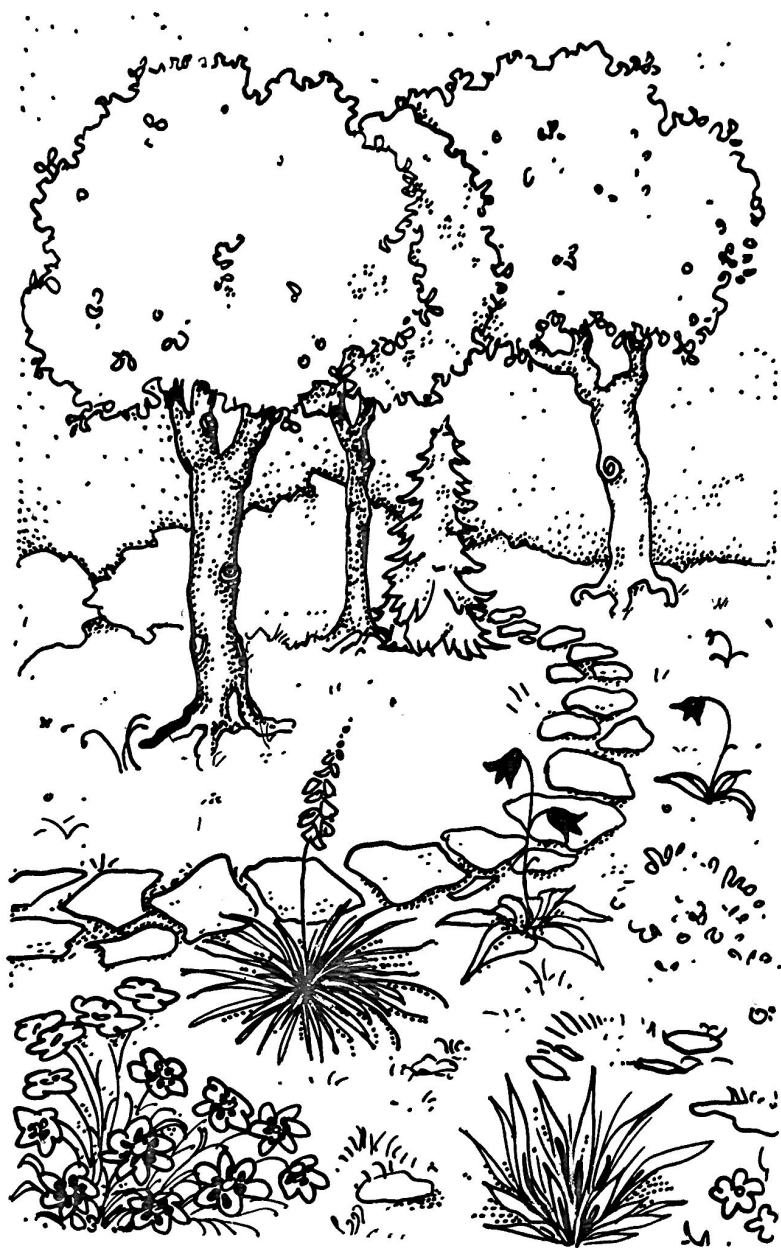
Prepared by the
PESTICIDE TASK FORCE
OF THE ECOLOGY CENTER OF ANN ARBOR

ARTIST
Karin Dothit



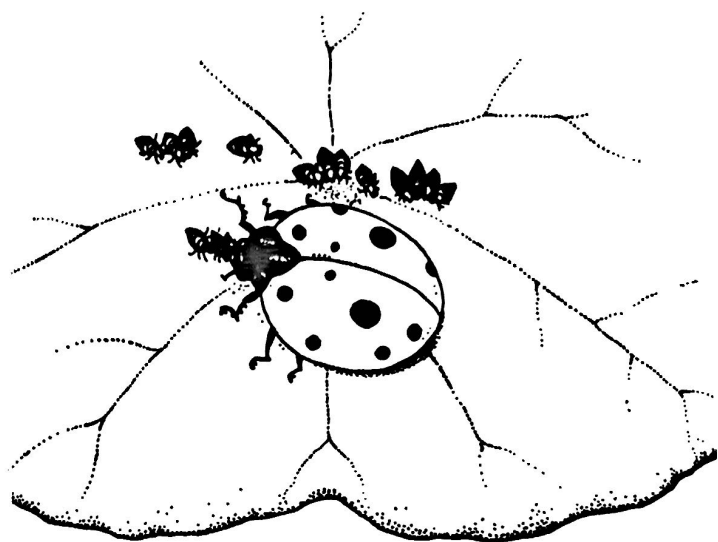
DESIGN
Don Shall

The PESTICIDE TASK FORCE is a group of citizens working with the Ecology Center of Ann Arbor to reduce use and misuse of pesticides. Their efforts include public education and promoting alternative pest controls.



For more information call or write the
Ecology Center of Ann Arbor
417 Detroit Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
(313) 761-3186

THE REAL SECRETS IN YOUR GARDEN



Ladybug at Lunch

Today's trends in garden design reflect a growing concern for our fragile earth. Landscape architects are creating more naturalistic environments, even in small areas, using native plants and many of the favorite flowers of old-fashioned back yards.

Lawns are smaller.

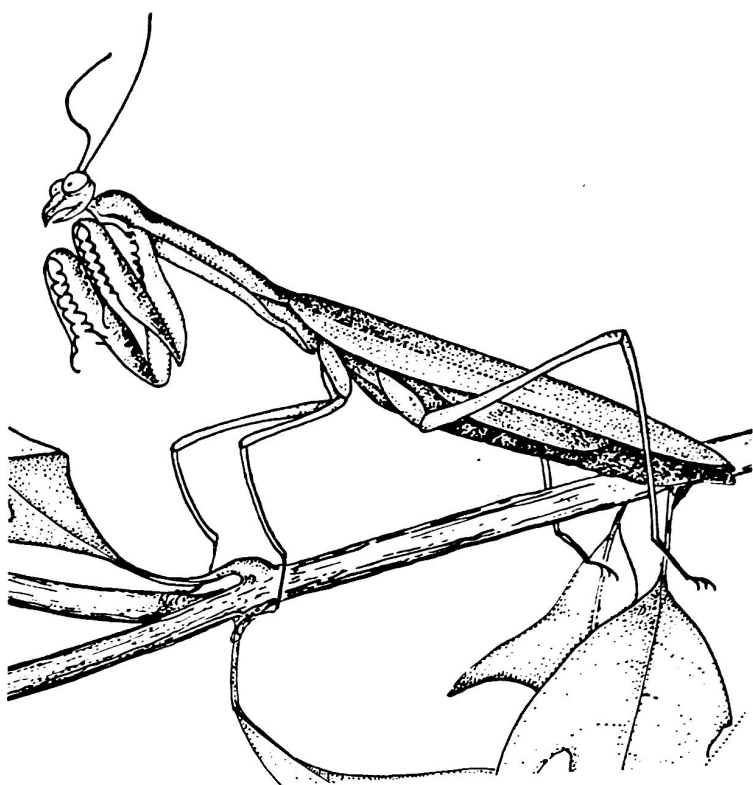
Many families are spending less time mowing, watering, and fertilizing big lawns, and instead are developing a partnership with Nature.

It takes time to turn a corner of your yard into a habitat for birds, or an expanse of lawn into an area of blooming plants, ground covers, flowering trees & shrubs. But these hours can be an investment in a less demanding and wonderfully rewarding future.

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THE REAL SECRETS IN YOUR GARDEN UNFOLD SLOWLY AND LIE IN THE INTERACTIONS OF LIVING THINGS

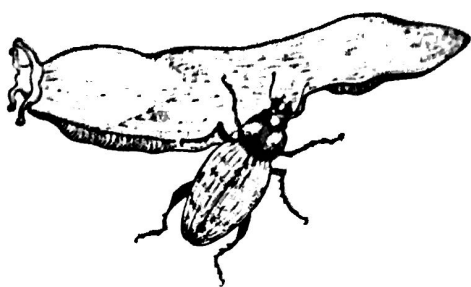
Healthy gardens are alive with a rich diversity of hidden organisms which enhance the growth of everything you plant. These hidden helpers are killed by pesticides.



Praying Mantis

Pesticides include herbicides, insecticides and fungicides. They are the only chemicals placed in the environment with the intent of harming living things.

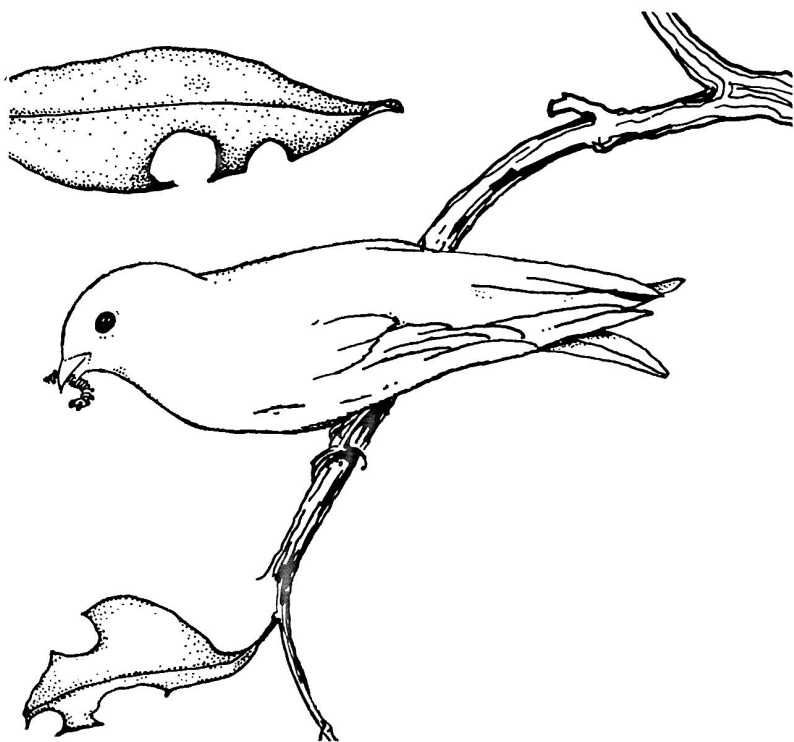
Synthetic chemical pesticides are especially destructive. Many of them last a long time, and many enter our drinking water. For example, DDT is still killing birds years after its use became illegal.



Beetle with a slug-steak

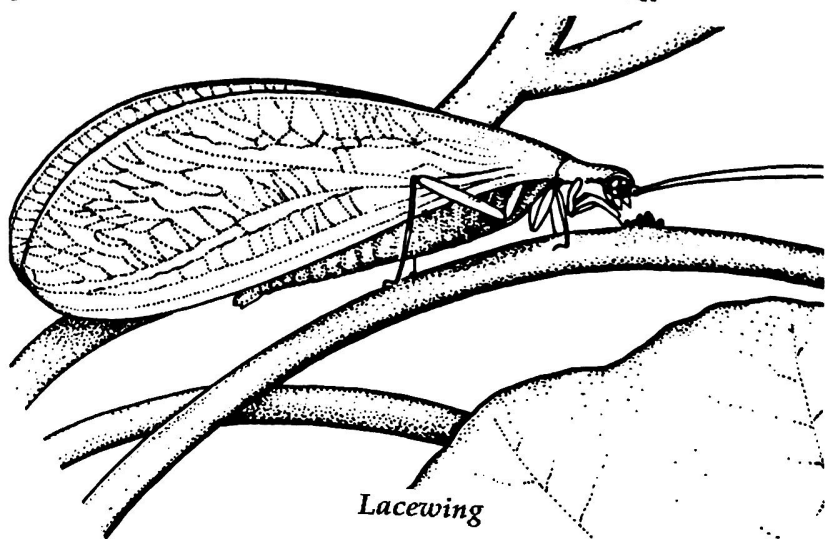
AVOID COMMON MISTAKES

- ❖ DON'T spray on a schedule! First, be certain a problem exists.
- ❖ DON'T spray everywhere! Confine any control measure to the area of the problem.
- ❖ STOP! DON'T kill insects unless you KNOW they are harmful. Many insects feed on other insects and should be protected.
- ❖ DON'T use synthetic pesticides. Botanical pesticides (e.g. pyrethrums) break down more quickly in the environment.



HEALTHY GARDENS NEED LACEWINGS, LADYBUGS, PRAYING MANTISES & EARTHWORMS

Pesticides kill beneficial insects and threaten our health, our children's health, and the health of our environment.



IF YOU MUST USE PEST CONTROLS...

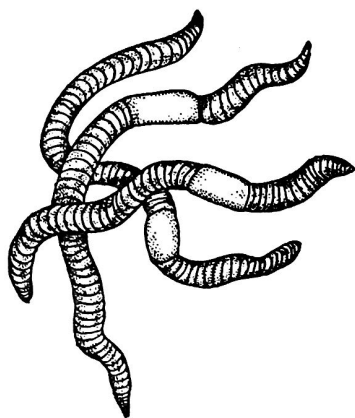
- ❖ Use mechanical controls instead of chemicals whenever possible. Sticky traps are effective. Barriers placed under mulch exclude weeds and pests while allowing passage of water and nutrients.
- ❖ Hand harvest bugs and pinch off infected leaves.
- ❖ Choose dormant oil sprays before leaves appear.
- ❖ Choose insecticidal soaps.
- ❖ Use biological products specific to one pest (e.g. BT for caterpillars).

REDUCE THE NEED FOR MAINTENANCE WHILE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

- ❖ Keep your lawn small — to reduce mowing and weeding.

- ❖ Soften the edges of your lawn with ground covers or mulched beds —to reduce edging while minimizing run-off into storm drains.

- ❖ Choose grass species which are hardy and drought resistant —to conserve water and nutrients. Overseed with a mix of red and chewing fescues plus a modern blue grass. Consider tall fescue only for a new lawn.



Earthworms

- ❖ Build a compost heap for rich and crumbly humus —to improve your soil and complete the circle of life in your garden.

- ❖ Use mulch—to keep roots moist and discourage weeds.

- ❖ Accept certain “surprise” wildflowers in your yard — to enjoy their beauty and to protect endangered species. European gardens still include the Medieval custom of “flowering” lawns.