



J&L Garden Center

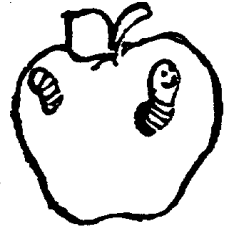
*The All Season Gift
and Garden Center*

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Where do bugs go during the winter?

As fall fades into winter, yards and gardens should have been cleaned up and plants should have gone dormant. **What about the insect pests?** Most insects will be protected from the winter weather and will be ready to reappear next season, right on schedule.



Many common insect pests actually overwinter in plant debris left in the garden, so it does pay to clean the garden at the end of the season. For example, cabbageworms that may have infested your cabbage and broccoli plants during the summer, spend the winter as pupa in plant debris left in the garden. Cucumber beetles overwinter as adult beetles in the same debris. The tomato hornworm also spends the winter as a pupa in plant debris. Lawn grubs safely rest as a larvae in the soil just below the frostline in the soil.



Other nuisance insects (boxelder bugs, snails, centipedes, earwigs, millipedes) overwinter in sheltered areas such as under plastic or weedcloth left in the gardens, in the siding of your house or in a pile of firewood. These insects may also become active pests during the warm spells of winter.



Some caterpillars overwinter on the actual tree they eat during the summer. Eggs are deposited in cracks in the bark or in the crotches of branches, ready to hatch next spring. Aphids also deposit their eggs in these same areas. You may have seen a willow branch completely engulfed with large black aphids in the fall, or an apple tree completely covered with the cottony covering of the woolly apple aphid. They are laying their eggs for next year.



Most borers that attack trees and shrubs spend the winter as larvae inside the host tree. They spend much of the warm weather, during the winter, tunneling around and eating the tree.



During winter, or at any time of the year, we can't forget about *cockroaches*! No one likes to see these brown, shiny, flat-bodied creatures scurrying around the house, but you would need a lot of luck to eliminate them completely. Cockroaches have been around for thousands of years and are among the most persistent insects. Be glad that the cockroaches we have in Utah are not as big

as the ones found in the southern US, and in Central America. A six inch cockroach is not unheard of.

Spend some time this fall controlling these pests, you may save yourself some time and money next spring.



Household Ants

Have you ever noticed a crumb from yesterday's sandwich sprouting legs and moving across the kitchen counter? What was yesterday's crumb is now a feast for an army of ants. Ants usually take regular routes to and from their nest and their food source by creating a chemical scent trail. Instead of leaving a trail of bread crumbs to find their way back home, they leave a scent trail to find their way back to the bread crumbs.



Ants can be common pests in homes. Most ants are primarily just a nuisance; they cause little damage. However, carpenter ants can weaken wooden structures. Unlike termites, ants can nest in wood but they do not eat the wood. Ants have a wide range of nesting habits and food preferences. Some ants build nests in soil producing characteristic mounds, while other ants nest in homes behind moldings, baseboards, under countertops and in other similar places. Still others, like carpenter ants, nest in decaying wood.



Not all ants found outdoors become pests indoors. Outdoors, ants are important in aerating the soil and in seed dispersal of many wildflowers. Outdoor ant colonies generally do not require any kind of control.

Inside, ants become a nuisance. They like to eat sweets, fats, starches, grains, and other foods, including meat. That's why they hang out in the kitchen. They may be nesting either inside or outside. They can nest in walls, under floors and even in potted plants. Fortunately, most indoor ants do not cause any structural damage to buildings.

Spraying a pesticide on the occasional ant foraging for food is only a temporary fix.



However, spraying ant crawl ways, tunnels, and the actual ant nest may help eliminate the problem. Permethrin pesticides provide a safe chemical control for ants if used correctly. Two other excellent indoor sprays are **Bayer Indoor Insect Killer** and **Concern Citrus Home Pest Control**. The Concern Citrus Spray is an organic product made from orange peels. It is completely safe to use everywhere inside the house.

Ant traps and baits can also be effective. Put the traps under the sink, in the food closets, or behind the drawers in your kitchen. The **Grant Company** makes an excellent ant trap that attracts ants and then sends the poison back to the ant hill with the soldiers. Do not set bait traps where small children or pets can reach them.

Spiders and Boxelder Bugs

Boxelder bugs, elm beetles, spiders, and root weevils are all looking for a nice warm home for the winter. Most of these types of insects are harmless, but they can become a nuisance. They often congregate in large numbers on the south side of your home and then try to migrate inside, where it is a little warmer. As the temperature gets cold they will find any crack, hole, or open door to crawl through to find warmth. Prevent these bugs from getting inside by making sure all the cracks and crevices are properly caulked or sealed; the door threshold is notoriously a major entry point for many insect invaders. Check your screens to make sure they are secure. Unfortunately, you cannot keep all unwanted insects from entering open doors, so you will still have to contend with the occasional visitor.

Outside chemical control for these types of pests is difficult because they are not feeding on anything, and they are preparing to hibernate for the winter. All chemicals must come in direct contact with each bug to kill them. There is no long-lasting, chemical for controlling these nuisance pests. You have to spray often to kill *boxelder bugs*. One of the best chemicals we have found to kill these unwanted pests is **Eight**, a fairly safe, organic insecticide. This chemical kills insects fast and does not stain your siding or brick. Spray weekly until the insect numbers are reduced, and then spray monthly to keep any stragglers under control.

