

act and consequently when these loose particles are themselves pumped dry, the moisture below is protected by them. It is a very pretty little process—one among a thousand others so interesting and wonderful, when one stops to examine them, that the greatest wonder is the little comment they provoke.

Garden pests I am not going to talk about. They are too specialized to have any place here—and space is limited. But I believe they will never prove as bad as apprehension paints them, if they are dealt with in the right way. Each state has its agricultural station where they will tell an inquirer very freely and fully just what to do for the special bug that is a-ravaging. The shrubs and trees included in the lists recommended are all exceptionally free from such enemies and will withstand attack, should it be made, better than many others.

Aphids I am tempted to give a paragraph, however—I abominate them so myself—and they are so common. They are the odious little things, soft-bodied, sometimes winged and sometimes not, which appear by the tens of thousands, over night, on almost any plant they may take a notion to. Some are tiny, some are giants, and some are middle size—that is, as aphids. And all sizes hobnob together and crowd and push each other on leaves or along branches until one wonders how there can be so many of anything in the world. Sometimes they are green, sometimes blue-black, sometimes deep purple-red—indeed they are resourceful as to color schemes, for they dye themselves, from the inside, with the juices of the plant they feed upon.

By this you will know that they belong to the vampire class of creation—they are sucking insects and not biters. They must be treated from the outside therefore, for nothing put onto the surface of a leaf will reach their interiors, as their bills are pushed