

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

GRASS CONTROL IN GOURDS

Grass can be controlled in gourds by use of different chemicals or mulch. 'Poast' is a registered chemical for control of grasses in broadleaves. It must be applied when the grass is growing rapidly and less than 6 to 8" tall. Otherwise, results will vary widely. This chemical is expensive but does the job on Foxtail, Johnson grass and others.

Newspapers, wood bark, sawdust, leaves, and other similar materials make good mulch. Wheat straw and old hay are used but often contain weed seed that can be a problem in later years. Black plastic film has been used for several years by commercial growers. Hobbyists have used it largely on raised beds [film]. Also, both of these groups report warmer soil and greater yields due to warmer soils.

CUCURBIT INSECT MANAGEMENT

Purdue Dept of Entomology Bulletin E-30, "Vegetable Insects" is a good source of information if you have insect problems in your gourds. Single copies can be obtained from your local extension office.

The striped cucumber overwinters in Indiana and is the 1st concern, we generally face each spring with seedlings. The spotted beetle is the "Western Com rootworm" pest noted in June to August. Both of these beetles transmit "Bacterial Wilt".

This is the case of the sudden, severe, and permanent wilt of a single plant runner or the entire plant. Squash bugs are brownish-black, about 5/8ths of an inch long. We see them largely on the gourd fruit later in the season in large numbers. These bugs love butternut squash and will move from squash to gourds easily.

GARDEN NOTES

By Honey Bear Miller

IGS member Honey Bear Miller, who resides in Elwood, Indiana, is an organic gardener.

I grew a new canna this year by the name of Tropicana. The foliage and blossom are spectacular.

Magazine recommendation: BIRDS & BLOOMS. Subscription rates: \$16.98 for 1 yr; 29.98 for 2 yrs; \$39.98 for 3 yrs. Send check, name & address to: BIRDS & BLOOMS, PO BOX 5359, Harlan., IA 51593

The fungicide I use for gourds and vegetables is Ortho Multi-Purpose Fungicide Daconil 2787.

The very best tomato cages are the ones gardeners make from Remesh (trade name for cement reinforcing wire). Remesh comes in 150 foot rolls that are 5 foot wide. The mesh is 6 inches square. My tomato cages are usually 7 1/2 foot high. I also use the Remesh to make cages for peppers, cucumbers, beans and towers for hyacinth beans, cardinal climber vines and Luffa operculatas.

My favorite cherry tomatoes are Sun Gold and Gardener's Delight.

Rabbit manure is good for vegetables, flowers and gourds and has no weed seeds.