Maintaining Your Florida-Friendly Landscape

Fertilizer

Fertilize:

- When you expect a desired result
- During growing seasons
- At signs of nutrient deficiencies
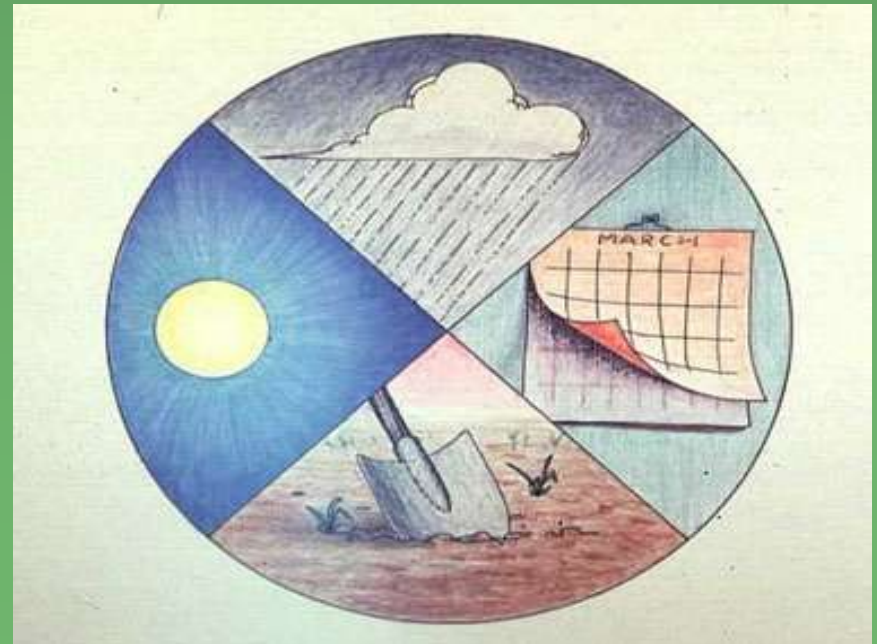
Fertilization might not be required:

- If the appearance is healthy
- If plants are established
- If plants are flowering or fruiting

Fertilization

Too Much

- Excess growth
- Pests
- Wastes time, labor, money
- Non-point source pollution

Cultural Practices

- Mulching
- Pruning
- Pest Management

Landscape Mulches

- Any material applied to the soil surface to protect or improve the area covered
- Organic
  - Pine Bark
  - Eucalyptus
  - Melaleuca
  - Pine straw
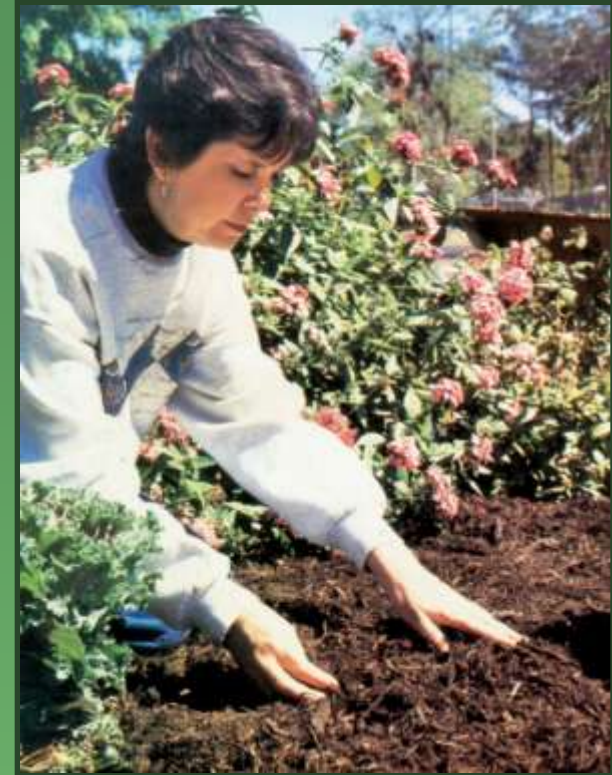 - Leaves
  - Recycled Utility

Mulch

- **Benefits**
  - Water Conservation
  - Moderates soil temperature
  - Helps in weed control
  - Aesthetic
  - Adds organic matter to the soil
  - Promotes beneficial microbes
  - Decreases soil compaction
  - Protects trees or shrubs planted in lawn areas from mechanical damage

Tips for Mulching

- Use recycled materials when possible

- Do not pile mulch against tree or shrub trunks

- Keep 2 -3 inches away from base of plant

- Apply mulch deep enough to suppress weeds, 2-3 inches

- No need to remove old mulch when applying new

Pruning

- is the selective removal of shoots and branches
- is done with a clearly defined objective
- should be timed according to the needs of the plant
- can be reduced by correct plant selection

Why Prune?

- Train young plants
- Control size and form
- Maintain or improve vigor or appearance
- Influence flower and fruit production
- Safety
- Rejuvenation
- **At transplanting? –not recommended**

Techniques

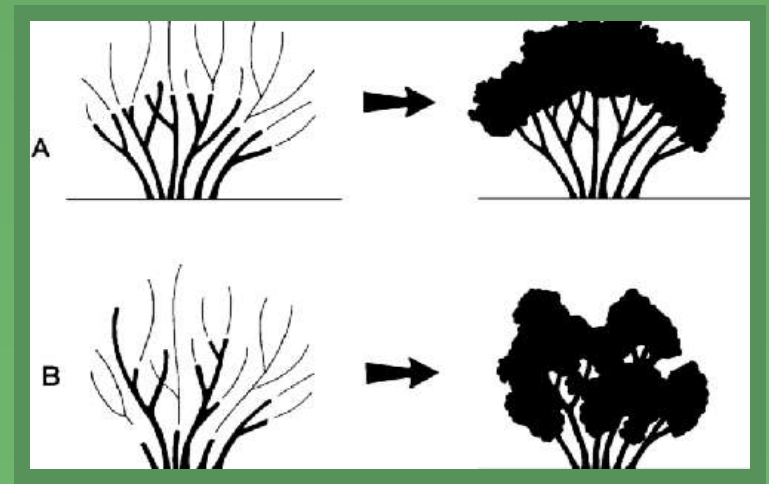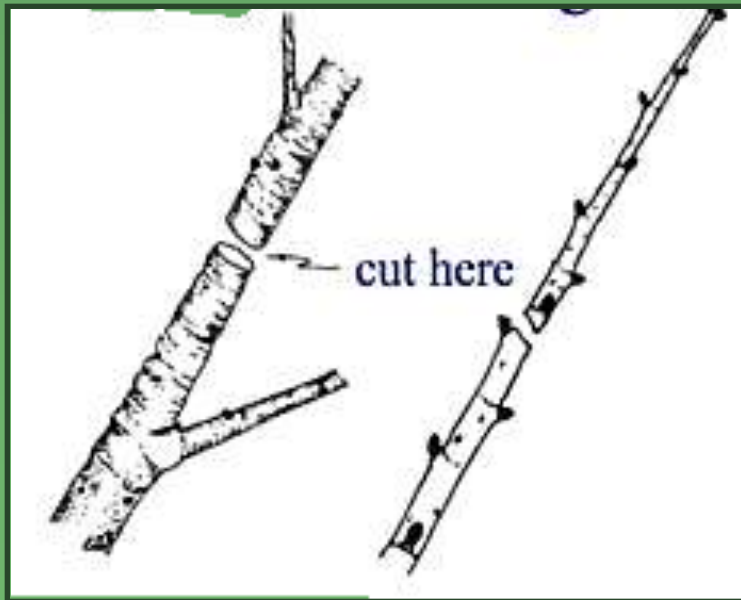Pruning Cuts – small branches, stems & twigs
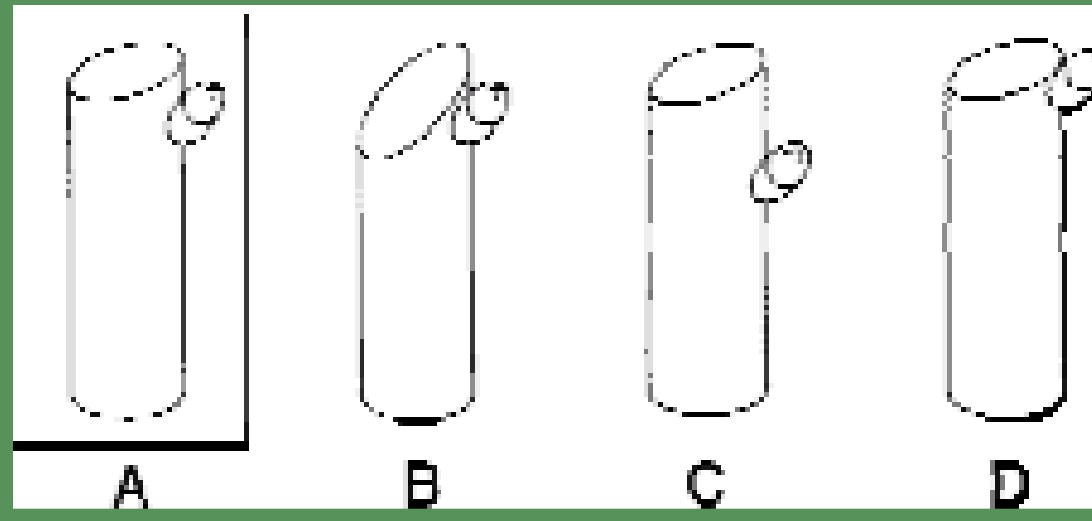
"A" correct "B" too slanted "C" too far from bud "D" too close to the bud

Techniques
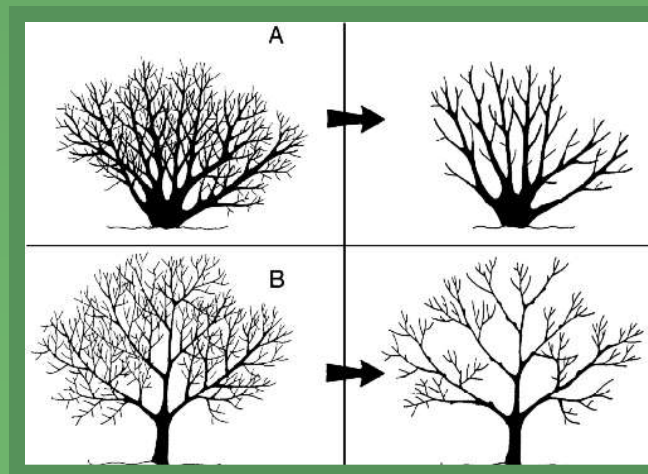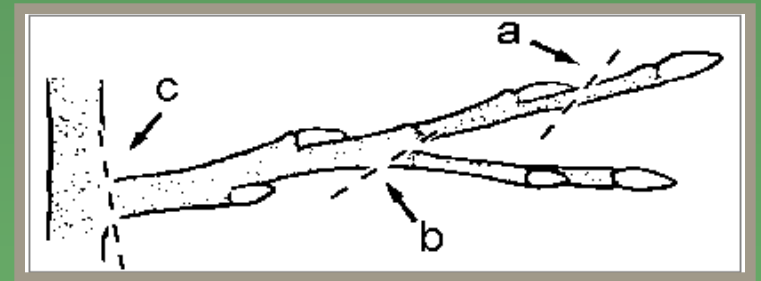
- Heading– cutting terminal ends of branches to axillary bud – encourages bushy growth
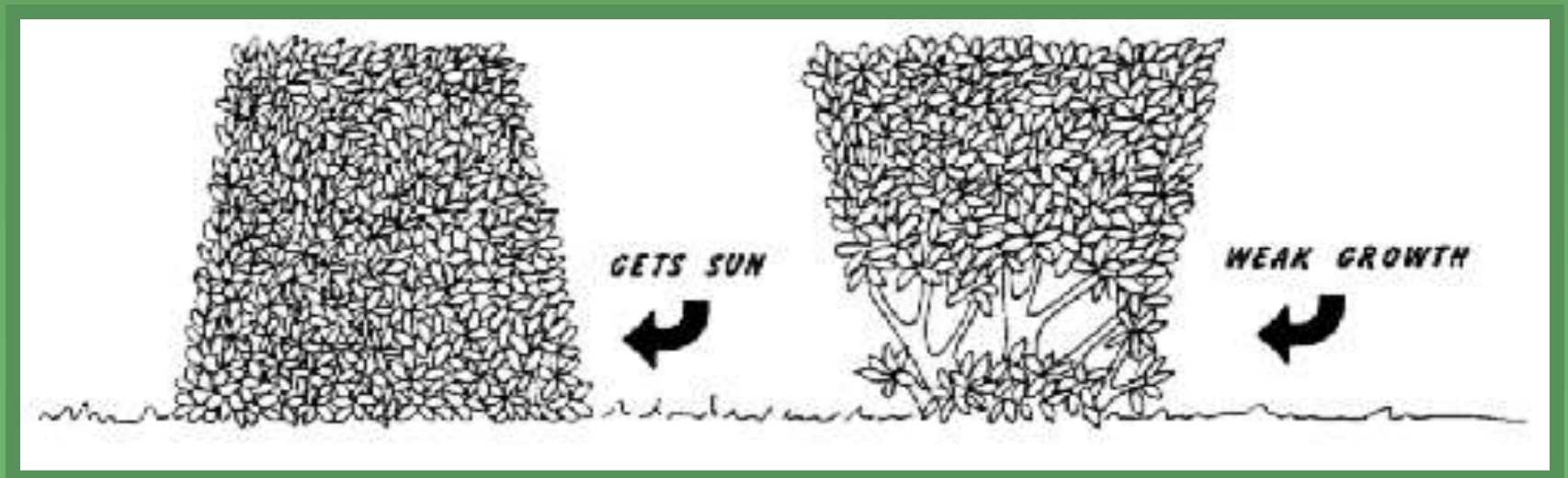 - Shrubs – vary levels

Heading Cut

Techniques

- Thinning –removal of branches to:
    - Lateral branch (b)
    - Main trunk (c)
- (a) is a heading cut

Techniques

Shearing or Hedging

- Creates dense thick new growth
- Keep top narrower than base
- Best for evergreen shrubs

Techniques

Pruning Palms
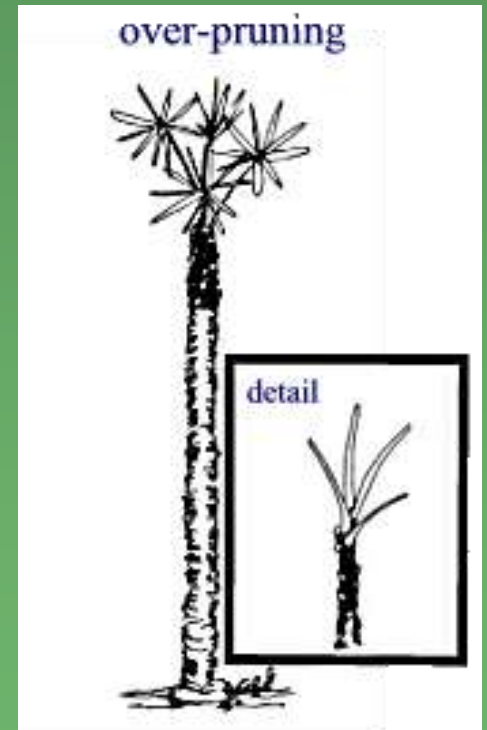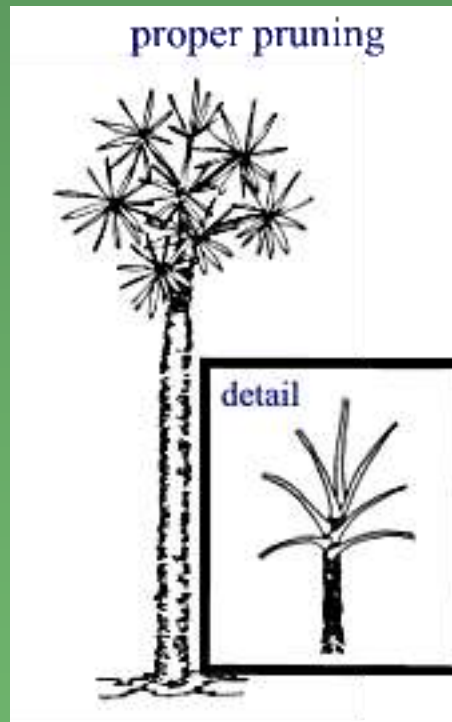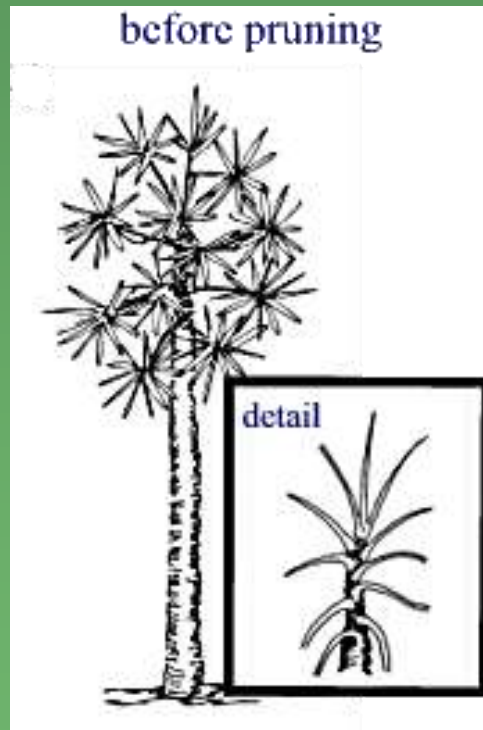
Timing

- Light pruning anytime
  - Remove dead branches
  - Lightly shape
- After flowering
  - Flowers on last seasons growth
- Late winter or early spring before growth flush
  - Flowers on new growth

Timing

- After flowering
  - Azaleas
  - Camellias
  - Most Hydrangea
  - Indian Hawthorn
  - Magnolia
  - Gardenia
  - Banana Shrub
  - Blueberries

Timing

Late winter early spring before growth flush

- Crape myrtle
- Bougainvillea
- Some Hydrangea
  - Endless Summer
  - Summer Beauty
- Plumbago

- Perennial flowers
- Hibiscus
- Oleander
- Rose
- Golden dew drop
- Cassia

Timing

- Dormant period or just after growth flush
    - Large shade trees
- Most evergreens
    - Anytime
- For rapid growth
    - Just prior to first spring growth flush - March
- For maximum dwarfing
    - Just after a growth flush

Mangroves

- 1996 Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act
  - Defines difference between trimming & alteration
  - May not reduce height below 6 feet from substrate
  - Mangrove roots may not be trimmed
  - Under certain conditions a professional mangrove trimmer must be employed

BEFORE TRIMMING

STAGE TRIMMING

25% FOLIAGE REMOVED ANNUALLY

AFTER TRIMMING

16 FEET

6 FEET
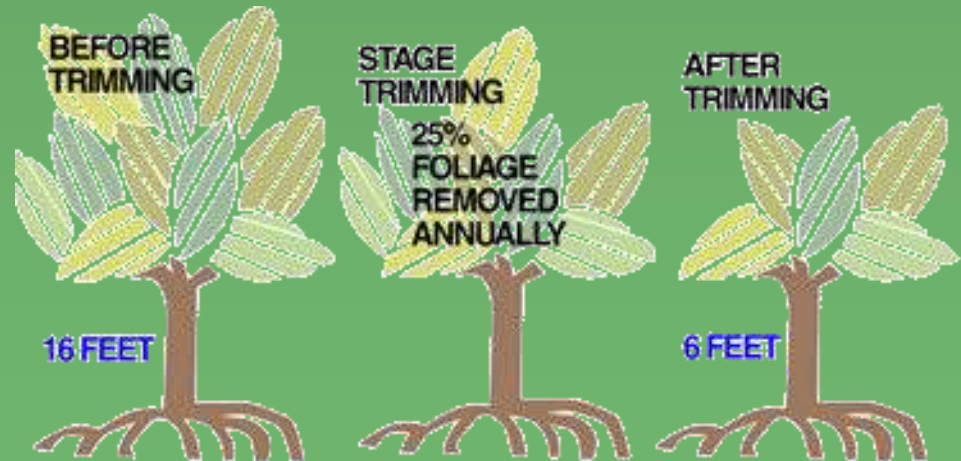
Integrated Pest Management Involves:

- Providing proper cultural practices
- Genetics – plants resistant to pests
- Scouting/Identifying/Monitoring
- Asking the right questions
- Choosing a method of control
- Protecting beneficial organisms and the environment

Scouting:

- Look for damage to plant:
  - Distorted new growth
  - Yellow stippling on leaves
  - Webs around leaves
  - Notched or chewed leaves
  - Black sooty mold

Identify:

- Is damage due to insect pest, disease or cultural practices?

- If you see insects, are they helpful, harmful or harmless?

- If the insects are harmful, do you see evidence of beneficial insects?

Harmful Pests with Piercing, Sucking Mouthparts

- Aphids
- Scales
- Mealybugs
- Spider mites
- Whiteflies
- Lace bugs

- Found on new plant growth and/or flowers
- Damage: leaf curling or deformed flowers
- Sooty mold & ants
- Heavy population control:
  - Sharp spray from hose
  - Horticultural oil (Neem, Organocide)
  - Beneficial insects

Scales: Soft & Armored

- Found on stems and underside of leaves
- Sooty mold
- Heavy infestations cause poor growth and decline of plant
- Control:
  - Horticultural oil (Neem, Organocide)
  - Chemical pesticides
  - Beneficial insects

Mealybugs

- Found on leaves, twigs and roots
- Bodies covered in white wax coating
- Sooty mold and ants
- Control can be difficult
  - Horticultural oil (Neem, Organocide)
  - Insecticidal soap
  - Beneficial insects

Spider mites

- Relatives of spiders – eight legs
- Found on lower leaf surfaces and fruits
- Webs sometimes present
- Stippling on leaf surface
- Hot, dry weather
- Control:
  - Sharp spray from hose
  - Horticultural oil (Neem)
  - Insecticidal soap
  - Beneficial insects
  - Chemical miticides

Whiteflies

- Found on undersides of leaves
  - Adults look like white gnats
  - Larvae stationary on leaves
- Leaves pale or spotted
- Sooty mold
- Control:
  - Yellow sticky cards
  - Horticultural oil (Neem)
  - Insecticidal soap
  - Beneficial Insects

This is a good bug

Harmful Pests that Chew:

- Caterpillars
- Chinch Bugs
- Weevils
- Grubs
- Leafminers
- Lubber grasshoppers
- Slugs
- Thrips

Control of Chewers:
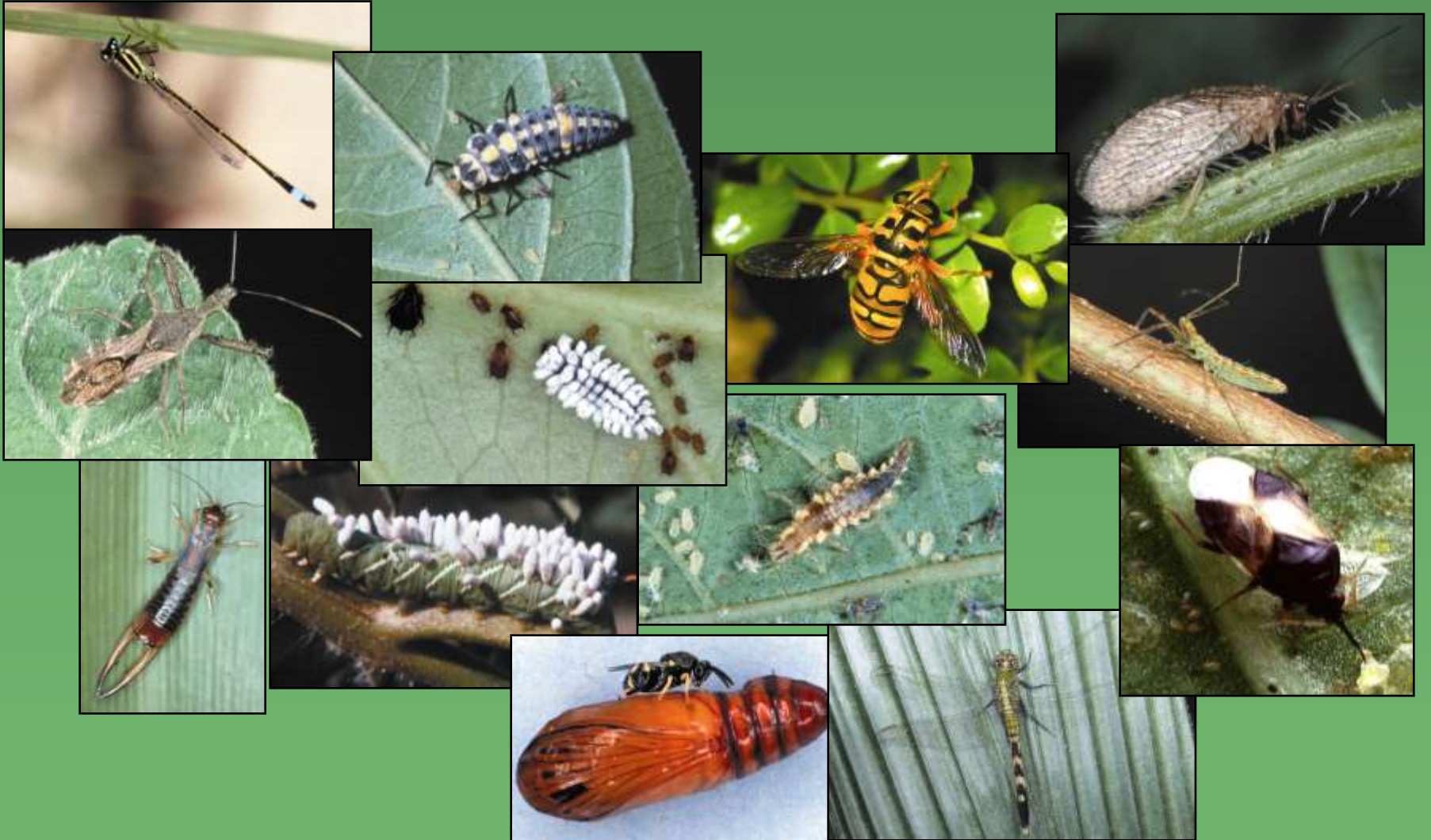
Controlled best if pest is very young

- Bt (*Bacillis thuringiensis)*
- Beneficial insects
- Chemical pesticides
- Mechanical removal

Remember – butterfly
larvae are caterpillars.
If you want butterflies,
be careful where you
use pesticides, including Bt.

Learn to Recognize Helpers:

More of the Good Guys

Pesticides

- Insecticidal soaps
  - Potassium salts of fatty acids
- Horticultural oils
  - Organocide
  - Neem
  - Paraffin based or light horticultural oil
- Chemical pesticides
  - Sevin, Malathion, Bifenthrin, etc.
  - Imidacloprid (systemic)
  - Iron Phosphate – safe slug and snail bait

Questions??