Insects and related critters are everywhere. In fact, they represent about 75 percent of all living things on earth. Around the home, most of them do no harm and some are beneficial. Some people, however, think that the only good bug is a dead bug and that their mission is to kill every bug they see.

Another approach is a theme that runs through What's Bugging You? (E-2649), a new book from Michigan State University Extension. Authors Tom Ellis and Joy Neumann Landis advocate finding out what the insect is and determining whether it's doing any damage before reaching for that can of bug spray.

Another theme of the book is integrated pest management — a control approach that uses a wide array of control methods, with pesticides as the last resort.

The 74-page book contains dozens of short stories about various insects from cockroaches to carpenter bees and carpenter ants to lightning bugs, as well as related topics such as making your garden more inviting to the predators and parasitoids that help control the bad bugs, using and storing pesticides safely, and closing the bug doors into your house by proper maintenance.

Humor runs rampant throughout, making the book entertaining as well as informative. Stories are organized by season — spring, summer and fall — and an “anytime” section includes those that are timely anytime.

The book is available through MSU Extension county offices and from the MSU Bulletin Office. The cost is $7.95, and orders under $100 must be prepaid.

Order form for E-2649, What's Bugging You?

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