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Biological Control

In this essay I am going to be writing about Biological Control and what it is about.

Scientists use different pest control methods that range from choosing a pesticide that will be least harmful to beneficial insects to raising and releasing one insect to attack another.

The traditional and familiar use of chemical pesticides sometimes has harmful affects on the environment such as DDT and this is harmful to humans such as a high risk of cancer is exposed to certain pesticides.

There are however alternative pest control methods, such as biological pest control, that are less harmful to the environment and humans. Unfortunately biological pest control methods alone are rarely sufficient. Research suggest that an integrated approach, using pesticides, biological pest control and other techniques may be the most affective.

In general terms, biological pest control is the use of a specially chosen living organism to control a particular pest. This chosen organism might be a naturally occurring parasites, predator, or disease that will attack a harmful insect. Biological pest control is a way to level out pests against unwanted pests.

In Holland lice are damaging trees. Ladybirds are being set free into the Dutch countryside to kill the lice. The ladybirds have been imported from California where they are specially bred. This example of biological control avoids the use of pesticides completely.

Also another method of biological control is sterile males. In this method a large amount of the male pest species are captured and sterilised by radiation. As a result the number of pests should decrease. The Mediterranean fruit fly had been controlled using sterile males. Things can still go wrong even when using biological methods. A predator brought in to control a pest may be wrong even when using biological methods.