

2.5 METHODS OF INSECT CONTROL

Every practice that makes life hard for insects and tends to kill them and to prevent their population increase is called method of insect control. The insect control implies the regulation of insect activity in the interest of man. Control of insects is of two types.

2.5.1 Natural Control

All control measures which are in the hands of nature collectively constitute natural control. Natural control has the following types.

- Weather factors e.g. temperature, humidity, light, rainfall, hail storm, wind etc.
- Topographical features e.g. mountains, oceans, lakes, deserts, rivers etc.
- Parasites, parasitoids and predators take their food from other insects and harm or kill them.
- Diseases are caused in the insects that weaken or kill them.

2.5.2 Artificial or Applied Control

All the measures and practices carried out by man for the control of insects are called artificial control. It is of following types:

- Cultural or agricultural control
- Physical control
- Mechanical control
- Biological control
- Reproductive or genetic control
- Legal control or legislative control
- Chemical control
- Integrated pest management

2.5.2.1 CULTURAL OR AGRICULTURAL CONTROL

It is the control of insect pests by performing ordinary agricultural practices or farm operations. The following farm operations can control the insect pests in various crops:

1. **Ploughing:** Certain insects like crickets and grubs of beetles are exposed to the sun by ploughing and thus they are eaten by the birds or may be killed by extreme sunlight.