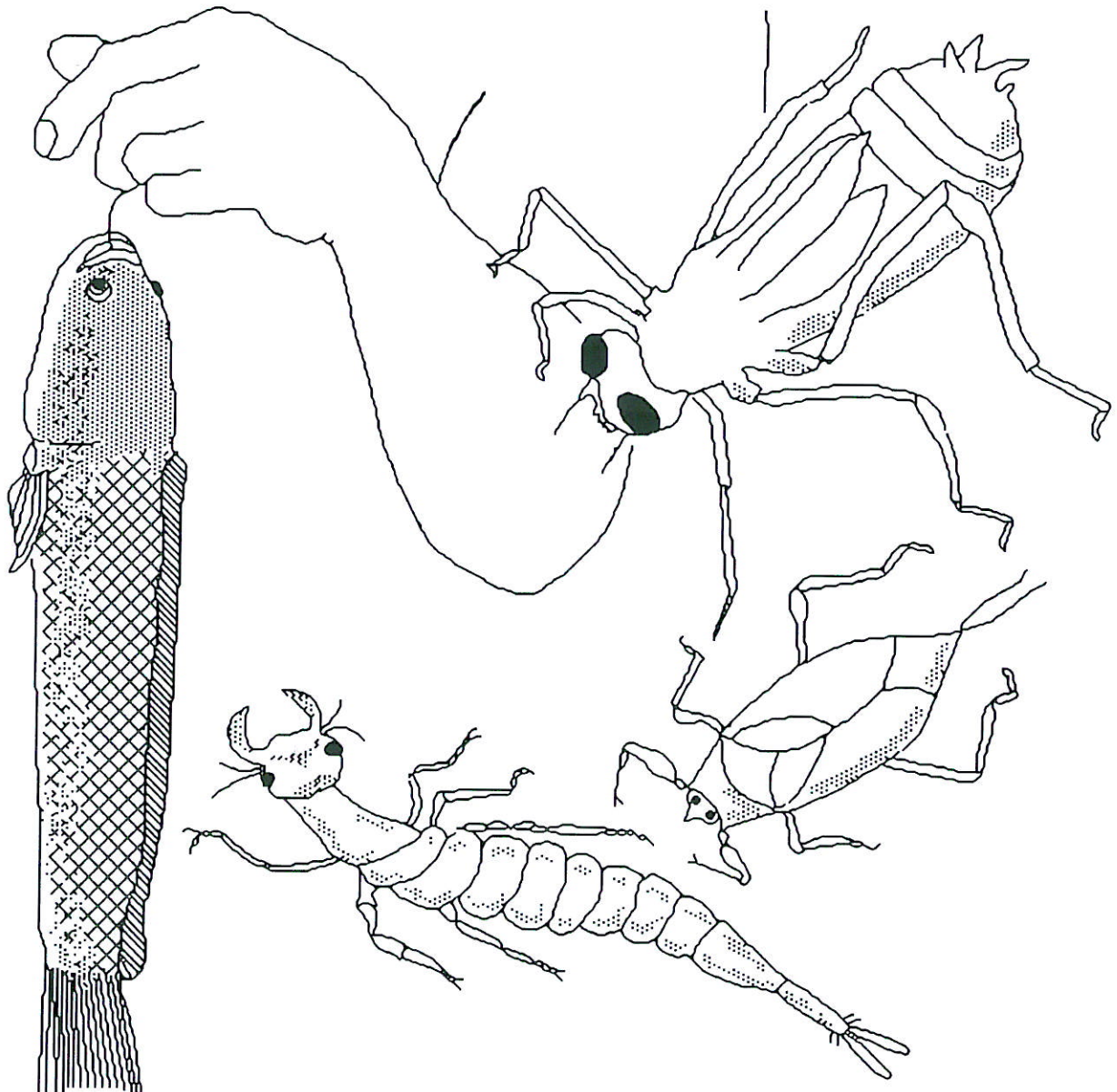

WATER HARVESTING AND AQUACULTURE
FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**ELIMINATING UNWANTED FISH AND
HARMFUL INSECTS FROM FISH
PONDS**



INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR AQUACULTURE
AND AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS
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INTRODUCTION

Poisons or "toxicants" are used to eliminate unwanted fish, insects and other harmful organisms from a pond. A wide variety of poisons is available. This manual describes some which are commonly used.

ELIMINATING UNWANTED FISH

Unwanted or "wild" fish may enter a pond through the water supply system. These fish may be predators which eat newly stocked fingerlings, or they may compete with fingerlings for food. In either case, they create problems for the fish pond manager. Unwanted fish can be eliminated at harvest when a pond is drained and dried. Poisons are effective in ponds which cannot be completely drained and dried. Poisoning should be done with caution to avoid harmful effects to humans, livestock, and the surrounding environment. Numerous poisons are used. Some may be purchased in stores. Others can be found growing near the farm.

Suitable fish poisons: 1) are effective in killing unwanted species at low doses; 2) detoxify quickly in water and are not injurious to cattle and people who may use the water; 3) leave no cumulative adverse residues; 4) are readily available and 5) are economical to use. Table 1 describes poisons and their application rates which may be used safely to kill fish. In Table 1, only fish killed by (*Derris* root) rotenone are known to be safe for human consumption. Insufficient information is available on the other poisons listed to make recommendations on the safety of eating fish killed by them. DO NOT use chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides like endrin, dieldrin and DDT. They can make animals and people very sick.

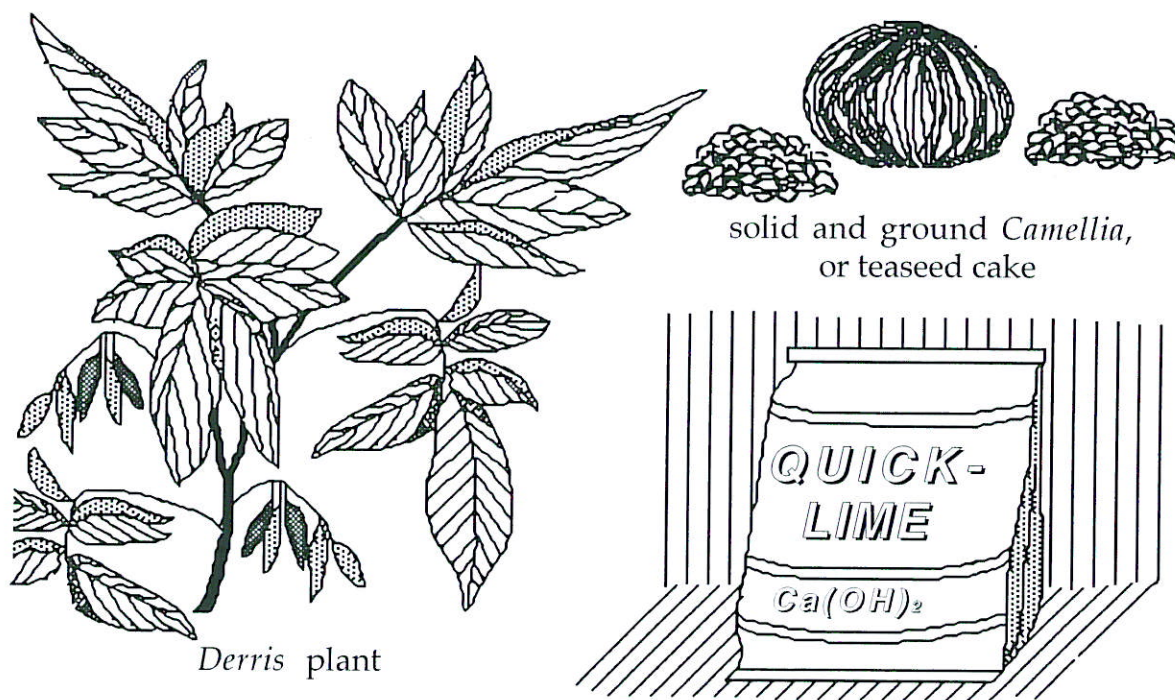


Figure 1: Some common fish poisons.