

RNA AS PESTICIDE

For the most curious: oral RNA (interference) for the... potato beetle.

This paper by E.Stokstad (1), which appeared in Science under “Features”, explains how RNA interference works in general, and as a pesticide for the potato beetle. RNA is sprayed on plants and the potato beetle ingests it orally 😬. This terrible beetle is very resilient: “The pest was an early driver of research into chemical pesticides starting in the 1930s. Ever since, it has evolved immunity to one compound after another—**now more than 50 pesticides**, representing all major types of active ingredients”. Darwinian selection 🤖.

1. <https://www.science.org/content/article/perfect-pesticide-rna-kills-crop-destroying-beetles-unprecedented-accuracy>