

[54] **ECOLOGICALLY IMPROVED PROCESS OF PROTECTING CERTAIN CROPS FROM DAMAGE BY SOIL-INHABITING INSECT PESTS AND PRODUCT PRODUCED THEREBY**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A process of protecting certain crops from damage by soil-inhabiting insect pests and product produced thereby are disclosed in which seed or seedlings are coated with a plant extract having a natural feeding detergency of predetermined efficacy to such insect pests and which has no appreciable phytotoxicity to the seeds or seedlings. More specifically, such seeds or at least the below-ground portions of seedlings are coated with an extract from a plant selected from the group consisting of butterfly milkweed, English ivy, santolina, bergamot, clary and swamp milkweed.

**17 Claims, No Drawings**