Little did I envision the difficulties encountered in building a list of -cide words. In general, such words are a combined form, signifying 'killer' or 'killing' (from the Latin caedere, to cut or kill). There are, however, three groups of exceptions: (1) development from other, similar roots (such as cadere, to fall); (2) neologisms, many of which are nonsensical; and (3) accidents of etymology (such as silicide, from sili(on) + ide).

The following list includes all the words I have identified which end in -cide; variant spellings are grouped together in alphabetical order. For me, the most unusual word in the list is Georgicide, the act of killing someone named George. Why single out George for such special treatment?

ABORTICIDE act of destroying a fetus in the uterus; or the agent that destroys the fetus and causes abortion (see also feticide)
ACARICIDE substance or preparation for killing acarids, or mites
ADULTICIDE an insecticide which kills an adult as distinguished from a larva
ALCIDE a man's given name: Alcide St. Pierre (Newsweek, September 12, 1977, p. 92)
ALGAECIDE, ALGICIDE a poisonous substance, usually copper sulfate, used to kill algae
AMEBACIDE, AMEBICIDE, AMOEBICIDE agent which is destructive to amebae
AMICIDE act of murdering one's friend
ANOPHELICIDE destructive to Anopheles mosquitoes
ANTHRACOCIDE capable of destroying the bacteria of anthrax
ANTRICIDE title of a poem by John Dickson, Evanston, Illinois (Spoon River Quarterly, I,1, Winter 1976); refers, mistakenly, to ant-killing (see also formicide)
ANTRYCIDE a trademark used for a white crystalline compound derived from quinoline and used in the control of trypanosomiasis in cattle
APHICIDE, APHIDICIDE substance used to kill aphids
APICIDE substance used to kill bees
AQUACIDE a trademark used for a silicone-based water repellent: Southern Coatings & Chemicals Co., Inc., Sumter, SC
ARACHNICIDE substance used to kill arachnids (as mites)
ASCARICIDE  agent destructive of ascarids (roundworms) (see also lumbricide)

AUTOCIDE  one who kills himself or another in the operation of an automotive vehicle; also, act of killing in this fashion

AVICIDE killing of birds (see also birdicide)

BACILLICIDE  substance destructive to bacilli

BACTERIAICIDE, BACTERICIDE, BACTERIOCIDE  agent capable of killing bacteria

BACTICIDE a disinfectant, used in advertisements by Oxford Chemicals, Atlanta, GA (a possible variant of bactericide?)

BARMICIDE a trademark used for a sterilizing disinfectant for combs: King Research Inc., Brooklyn NY

BARMICIDE  one who gives illusory benefits (sometimes capitalized)

BIOCIDICIDE any substance, especially a chemical, used to destroy insects, fungi, bacteria, protozoans, minute forms of plant life, etc. (see also pesticide)

BIRDICIDE  killing of a bird, used in reference to the Ancient Mariner (see also avicide)

BOVICIDE slaughter of oxen; a butcher

CANICIDE  act of killing a dog

CERVICIDE deer-killing

CETICIDE  whale-killer

CHEMICIDE (1) listed in Lehnert's Reverse Dictionary without definition; (2) a company name: Gallard-Schesinger Chemicides, Inc., Carle Place, NY

CHRISTICIDE  act of killing, or one who killed Christ

CIMICIDE  agent destructive to bedbugs

COINCIDE to agree in position, concur; happen at the same time

CULICIDE, CULICIDE  agent destructive to gnats and mosquitoes (see also Mimmi's culicide)

CYANICIDE in metallurgy, any substance, as ferrous sulphate, that decomposes cyanides

CYTOCIDE  destructive to cells

DECIDE to determine, adjudge, conclude

DEICIDE act of killing a god or Jesus Christ (sometimes capitalized)

DETERGICIDE a disinfectant, used in advertisements by USCI Division, Boston, MA

DIOXCIDE a company name: International Dioxcide, Inc., New York, NY

DISILICIDE  in chemistry, a compound containing two atoms of silicon in combination with an element or radical

ECOCIDE destruction of (our) ecology; possibly used in Time

ELEPHANTICIDE killing of an elephant

EPISCOPICIDE killing of a bishop

EPIZOICIDE destructive to an external parasite or commensal

EXCIDE to cut out, extirpate

FACTICIDE perversion of, or a perverter of, fact
FAMACIDE (1) slandering, defaming; (2) in law, a person who destroys another's reputation

FEBRICIDE (1) lowering bodily temperature in fever; (2) agent that reduces fever

FELICIDE killing of a cat

FEMICIDE act of killing, or one who kills, a woman (see also gynecide)

FETICIDE, FOETICIDE act of destroying a fetus or causing an abortion (see also aborticide)

FILARICIDE agent destructive to filariae

FILICIDE act of killing one's own son or daughter

FORMACIDE a trademark used for a proprietary formaldehyde preparation for disinfecting instruments

FORMICICIDE, FORMICIDE any substance used for destroying ants (see also anticide)

FRATRICIDE act of killing one's own brother or sister

FULDICIDE a trademark used for a disinfectant: Fuld-Stalford, Inc., Havre de Grace, MD

FUNGICIDE agent for killing fungus; also, one that inhibits the growth of the spores or hyphae

GALLICIDE killer of fowls

GALLINICIDE killer of hens or poultry

GAMETOCIDE agent that destroys the gametocytes of a malaria parasite

GEMICIDE killing of diamond dealers (from Weekend Update segment of NBC-TV's Saturday Night Live, October 15, 1977)

GENOCIDE the use or user of deliberate, systematic measures, such as killing, bodily or mental injury, unlivable conditions, prevention of births, calculated to bring about the extermination of a racial, political or cultural group or to destroy the language, religion or culture of a group

GEORGICIDE act of killing or one who kills a person named George

GERMICIDE agent for killing germs or microorganisms; specifically, one destructive to disease germs

GIGANTICIDE slaying of a giant

GLOBULICIDE in medicine, an agent that destroys blood corpuscles

GLUCIDE in chemistry, a colorless liquid $\text{CH}_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{OH}$, obtained from certain derivatives of glycerol, and regarded as an hydride of the latter

GONOCOCICIDE, GONOCOCCOCIDE agent destructive to gonococci

GRAMICIDE an antibiotic, obtained from certain soil bacteria, that is active against certain (Gram-positive) disease producing bacteria in local infections, but when introduced into the blood stream is destructive of red blood cells

GYNAECIDE, GYNECIDE act of killing, or one who kills, a woman
(see also femicide)

**HELMINTHICIDE** substance or agent for killing worms (see also vermicide)

**HERBICIDE** substance or preparation for killing plants, especially weeds or undesirable plants (see also weedicide)

**HERETICIDE** act of killing a heretic

**HERPICIDE** (1) probably the killing of reptiles (in Johnson's New Rhyming Dictionary); (2) a trademark used in hairdressing: New-bro's Herpicide - circa 1905 (found in the Bulletin of the Museum of Modern Art, New York)

**HIRUDICIDE** substance destructive to leeches

**HOMICIDE** act of killing another, especially a man (see also viricide)

**IMAGICIDE, IMAGOCIDE** agent which destroys adult insects, especially adult mosquitoes

**INCIDE** (1) to cut or divide as by sharp medicines (obsolete); (2) to be incident (rare)

**INFANTICIDE** act of killing an infant, especially a new-born

**INSECTICIDE** act of or a substance for killing insects (the Food and Drug Administration admits within the term insect small invertebrate animals which do not belong to the class Insecta but are called insects in popular language)

**LAPICIDE** a stone-cutter

**LAVICIDE** derived from lavatory? used in advertisements by Puritan Chemical Co., Atlanta, GA

**LEUCOCIDE, LEUKOCIDE** substance, as in serum, specifically destroying leukocytes; a coccoid substance that destroys leukocytes

**LIBERTICIDE** destruction of, or one who destroys liberty

**LOCUSTICIDE** listed in Lehner's Reverse Dictionary without definition (probably an agent destructive to locusts)

**LOUSICIDE** agent for destroying lice (see also pediculicide)

**LUMBRICIDE** agent which destroys lumbrici (the ascaris, or round intestinal worm) (see also ascaricide)

**LUPICIDE** act of killing a wolf

**MARITICIDE** act of killing one's own husband (see also viricide)

**MATRICIDE** act of killing one's own mother

**MEDICIDE** a trademark used for a disinfectant and air deodorant

**MENOCIDE** undefined (used in Science Fiction Review, 22, p. 42)

**MENTICIDE** systematic effort to undermine and destroy a person's values and beliefs, as by the use of prolonged interrogation, drugs, torture, etc., and to induce radically different ideas

**MICROBICIDE** agent that destroys microbes

**MINM'S CULICIDE** a phenol camphor volatized by heat and allowed to diffuse through a room (see also culicide)

**MISDECEDE** wrong; amiss

**MITICIDE** substance or preparation for killing mites, especially red spider mites
MODERNICIDE killer of a modernist (a person whose views and tastes are modern)
MOLLUSCACIDE agent that will destroy snails and other molluscs
MONSTRICIDE destruction of a monster, such as a fetal monster
MOSQUITOCIDE agent destructive to mosquitoes
MURICIDE definition uncertain (probably marine gastropods or molluscs)
MUSCACIDE, MUSCICIDE destructive to flies
NEMATICIDE, NEMATOCIDE chemical substance destructive to nematode worms
ORTHOCIDE a trademark used for a fungicide: Chevron Chemical Co., San Francisco, CA
OVICIDE agent that kills eggs, especially an insecticide effective in the egg state
OXYURICIDE in medicine, one that kills worms of the genus Oxyuris
OZAGENOCIDE obliteration of an insect-like race of sentient beings (Philip José Farmer, The Lovers)
PARASITICIDE agent for killing parasites
PENDICICIDE agent for destroying lice (see also lousicide)
PERDRICIDE partridge-killer (used chiefly attributively)
PHILOSOPHICIDE one who would destroy philosophers or philosophy
PHYTONCIDE a volatile substance produced in and eliminated from certain plants, especially of the genus Allium, which is lethal for various protista and for tubercle bacilli
PISCICIDE substance poisonous to fish
PLASMODICIDE agent which is destructive to plasmodia (malarial parasites of the genus Plasmodium)
POPULICIDE slaughter of the people (rare)
PREDECIDE priority of time (trans. verb)
PRENTICECIDE apprentice-killer
PROLICIDE crime of killing one's child before or immediately after birth
PROTOZOACIDE substance used to kill protozoans
PULICIDE, PULICIDE agent destructive to fleas
PUTRICIDE definition uncertain: destruction of that which is rotten? (found in Webster's Second under 'putri-')
RACE SUICIDE gradual extinction of a race through the voluntary failure of its members to have a number of children sufficient to keep the birth rate equal to or greater than the death rate
RATICIDE substance or preparation for killing rats
RATTICIDE title of a story, "The Politics of Ratticide", by Arsen Darnay (Galaxy Science Fiction, XXXVI, March 1975)

REDECIDE to decide again
REGICIDE act of killing a king
RODENTICIDE substance or preparation for killing rodents
SCABICIDE destructive to the organisms causing scabies (see also scabieticide)
SCABIECIDECIDE destructive to the organisms causing scabies (see also scabicide)

SCHISTOSOMACIDE, SCHISTOSOMICIDE agent which destroys schistosomes (trematode parasites, or blood flukes)
SCHIZONTICIDE agent selectively destructive of the schizont of a sporozoan parasite (as of malaria)
SEALICIDE killing of gray seals (Time, October 23, 1978, p. 60)
SELFCIDE intentional taking of one's own life (also see suicide)
SENICIDE killing of old men, especially as a tribal custom

SILICIDE in chemistry, a binary compound of silicon usually with a more electropositive element or radical
SORORICIDE act of killing one's own sister
SPARROWCIDE killing of a sparrow
SPARTACIDE a Spartacist (member of the Spartacus party, in Germany) (capitalized)

SPECTRACIDE a trademark name for Diazinon, a chemical to eliminate carpet beetles, etc.
SPERMATOCIDE, SPERMATOZOICIDE, SPERMICIDE agent that kills spermatozoa
SPIRILLICIDE agent which destroys spirilla (relatively rigid, spiral-shaped bacteria)
SPIROCHAETICIDE, SPIROCHETICIDE in medicine, an agent, especially a drug, capable of killing spirochetes, specifically within the human or animal body (see also treponemicide)
SPORICIDE substance for killing spores

STAPHYLOCIDECIDE, STAPHYLOCOCCIDE, STAPHYLOCOCCICIDE agent destructive to staphylococci
STILLICIDE (1) a continual falling or succession of drops; (2) now especially, the dripping of rain water from the eaves, or eavesdrop
STREPTOCOCCICIDE agent destructive to streptococci
SUICIDE (1) intentional taking of one's own life (see also selfcide); (2) ruin of one's own interests; self-destruction
SUITORCIDE fatal to suitors

SULFOSILICIDE, SULPHOSILICIDE presence of sulphur as an ingredient in a silicide
TAENIACIDE, TAENICIDE, TENIACIDE, TENICIDE substance, especially a remedy, destroying tapeworms (see also vermicide)
TALPICIDE killing of a mole
TAURICIDE killing of a bull
TEENICIDE listed in Lehner's Reverse Dictionary without definition (possibly killing of a teenager)


THURICIDE a trademark used for an insecticide for inchworms (active ingredient: Bacillus thuringiensis)

TICKICIDE substance used to kill ticks

TOXICIDE a drug capable of overcoming toxic agents

TOXINICIDE agent destructive to toxins

TREPONEMICIDE agent destructive to parasitic spirochetes (see also spirocheticide)

TRICHOMONACIDE agent destructive to trichomonads (parasite of the genus Trichomonas)

TRYPANOCADE, TRYPANOSOMACIDE agent destructive to trypanosomes (protozoan parasites of the genus Trypanosoma)

TUBERCULOCIDE agent destructive to Mycobacterium tuberculosis; or any tubercle bacilli

TUMORCIDE agent destructive to cancer cells

TYRANNICIDE act of killing a tyrant

UNCLECIDE killing of an uncle (Neil Simon, Murder by Death, 1976)

UNDECIDE to unmake a decision (rare)

URSICIDE bear-killer

UXORICIDE act of killing one's own wife

VACCICIDE killing of a cow

VATICIDE (1) act of killing a prophet; (2) one who kills poets

VERBICIDE (1) one who mutilates or destroys a word; (2) the perversion of a word from its proper meaning; destroying the sense or value of a word

VERMICIDE substance or agent for killing worms, especially a drug to kill parasitic intestinal worms (see also taeniacide)

VERMINICIDE agent destructive to vermin

VESPACIDE agent destructive to, or one who kills, wasps

VIRICIDE killing of a man or a husband (see also homicide, mariticide)

VIRUCIDE, VIRUSCIDE substance for killing viruses

VITICIDE insects, etc. injurious to vines

VULPECIDE, VULPICIDE in England, act of killing a fox other than by hunting with hounds

WEEDICIDE substance or preparation for killing plants (see herbicide)

ZINCIDE a compound of zinc with an element or radical

ZYMOCIDE a trademark? for a proprietary disinfectant and antiseptic

The author encourages additions and corrections to this onomasticon.

O THOU IMPROPER, THOU UNCOMMON NOUN

This is the name of Willard Espy's new book on eponyms: "improper, because they have ceased to be proper names; uncommon, because it is uncommon for proper names to become common" (but he gives some 1500 examples). Published by Clarkson N. Potter, it can be purchased either in cloth ($12.95) or paperback ($7.95).

Reading a dictionary of eponyms is like reading a dictionary of words -- great in small doses, but inciting mental indigestion in excess. Although many etymologies are cribbed from standard sources, he does inject his own humor and commentary, as SCHLEMIEL ("the kind of man who, were it raining soup, would have only a fork") or BUGGER (derived from Volga via Bulgar, "a form of etymological river pollution"). Old friends such as CARDIGAN, BOYCOTT and GERRYMANDER are there, together with less-familiar examples. Did you know that UKULELE is the Hawaiian word for "little flea", the nickname of a British officer who was an expert player of the instrument, or that ISABEL is a shade of brownish-yellow named for the Infanta Isabella who vowed never to change her unmentionables until her husband captured Ostend (the siege lasted three years)?

It was inevitable that Espy should author this book, for how many of us can claim a son-in-law whose name is an eponym? To PLIMP is to engage in participatory journalism such as that practiced by George Plimpton, who wrote about playing football with the Detroit Lions and boxing with Archie Moore.