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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, AMOEBCIDE 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
ANTRICE 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

BACTERIACIDE, BACTERICIDE, BACTERICIDE agent capable of killing bacteria

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

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

BARMECIDE one who gives illusory benefits (sometimes capitalized)

BIOCIDE 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

CERTICIDE 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

CUCICIDE, CUCICIDE agent destructive to gnats and mosquitoes (see also Mimn'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

ELYPHANTICIDE 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 antocide)
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
GAL LICIDE killer of fowl
GALLINICIDE killer of hens or poultry
GAMETOCLIDE 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
GEORGI CIDE 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, any of a class of substances comprising the simple or nonhydrolyzable sugars (oses) and compounds (osides) which yield on hydrolysis one or more simple sugars with or without other substances
GLYCIDE in chemistry, a colorless liquid $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, obtained from certain derivatives of glycerol, and regarded as an anhydride of the latter
GONOCOCCLIDE, GONOCOCCOCLIDE 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
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

HERPISCIDE (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, IMMOCIDE 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 newborn

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

LARVICIDE agent destructive to insect larvae

LAVACIDE 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

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

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

MISDETERMISE 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)
PANAMA LARVICIDE preparation for killing Anopheles larvae
PARASITICIDE agent for killing parasites
PARENTICIDE (1) act of killing a parent; (2) parricide (rare)
PARRICIDE act of killing one's kin, especially father or mother
PATRICIDE parricide; specifically (a) a traitor, also a treasonable act, or (b) act of killing one's own father — now the usual sense
PEDICULICIDE agent for destroying lice (see also lousicide)
PERDRICIDE partridge-killer (used chiefly attributively)
PESTICIDE substance for killing pests (see also biocide)
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)
SCABICETICIDE 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)
SELFICIDE intentional taking of one's own life (also see suicide)
SENICIDE killing of old men, especially as a tribal custom

SERPENTICIDE killing of a serpent
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

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)

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

SULFOSILICIDE, SULPHOSILICIDE presence of sulphur as an ingredient in a silicide
TAENIACIDE, TAENICIDE, TENIACIDE, TENICIDE substance, especially a remedy, destroying tapeworms (see also vermicide)
TAURICIDE killing of a mole
TARICIDE killing of a bull
TEENICIDE listed in Lehnert'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)

TRYPANOCIDE, 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

VRICIDE 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.