

Insects

Every garden has insects. Use these tips to safely identify and manage insects in the garden.

Focus on the Basics

Give plants the best growing conditions possible by using compost, weeding often and irrigating regularly. Don't forget to rotate crops and clean-up dead and diseased plants.

Observe

Keep an eye out for insects and insect damage. Are leaves being chewed? Is sap being sucked? Are fruits being pierced? Can you observe the insect in action?

Identify the Insect

Gardens are full of bugs. Some are helpful. Some are not. See the resources below or online to help identify the bug in question.

Choose your Method

Do nothing

No joke! In some cases, the damage caused by an insect will be minor or the insect will move on.

Time plantings to avoid pests

Some insects come out early in the season, others late. If possible, plant crops at times when pest numbers are lower.

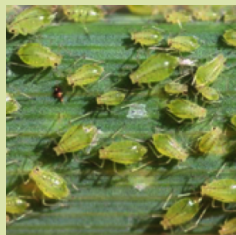
Hand pick 'em

Large insects can be picked off by hand. Look for the insect's eggs underneath leaves and scrape those off with a knife.

Use natural insecticides

The safest bet is to use common household items like soap, garlic, and hot pepper. Ask your local store about other safe items.

Know Any Bad Bugs?



Aphids



Squash bug



Striped cucumber beetle



Spotted cucumber beetle



Cabbage worm



Tomato Hornworm

➤ **Common Garden Pests & Problems:**
<http://bit.ly/pestproblems>

➤ **Organic Pest Control Techniques:**
<http://bit.ly/OrganicPestCtrl>