

Backyard Garden IPM!

Gardening Tips to Prevent Pests



Inspect for pests and pest damage

Pest problems can be easier to manage when caught early. Know the common garden pests and how to recognize their signs.



Encourage beneficial garden visitors

Natural predators, like ladybugs, lacewings, and spiders, can be a huge help in keeping pest populations down. Avoid using broad insecticide sprays in your garden that can harm these beneficial insects.



Maintain good watering habits

Many pest species are attracted to moisture in the soil or standing water in your garden. Avoid overwatering plants to minimize excess water.



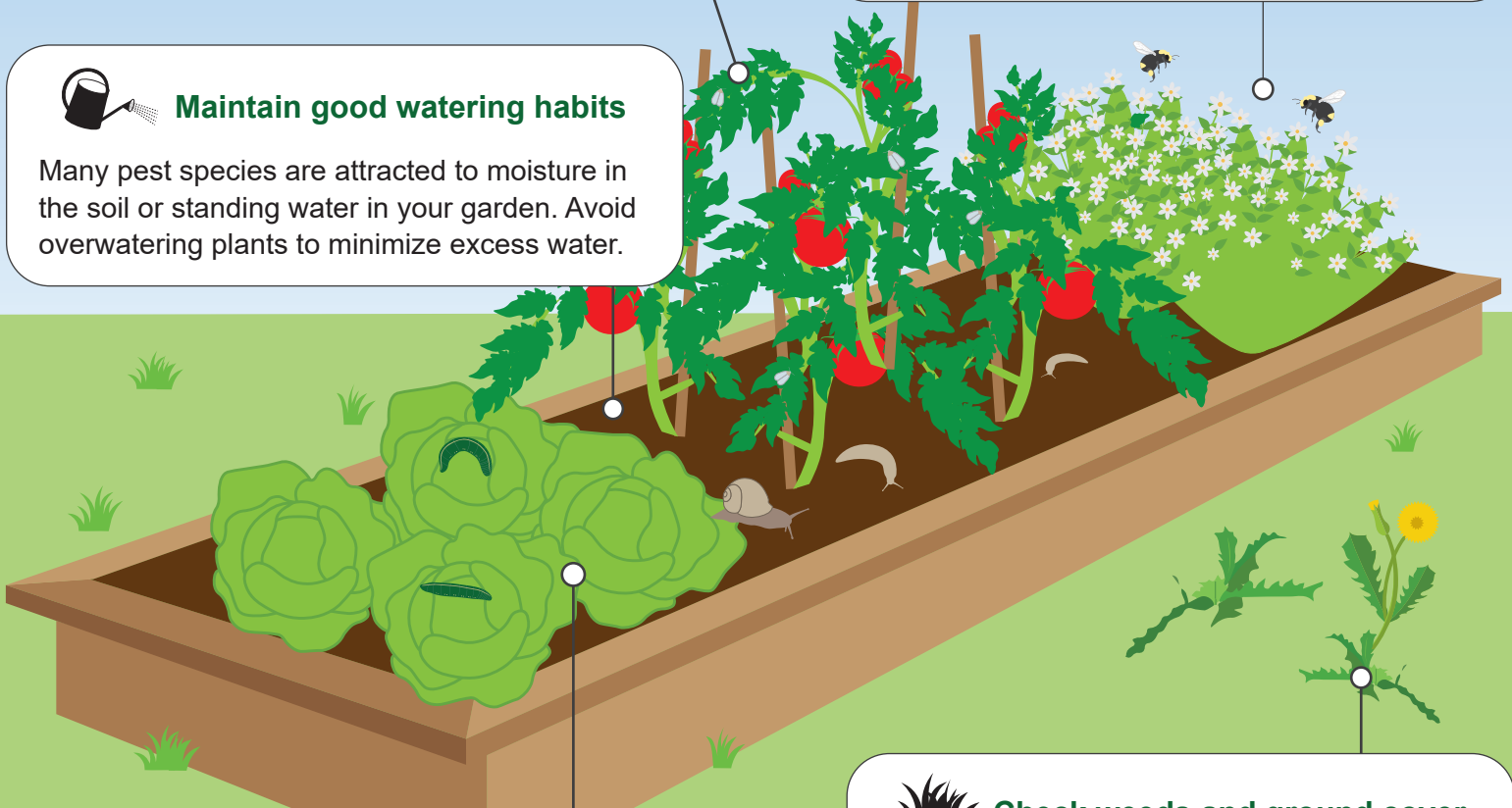
Keep plants healthy

Healthy plants are less susceptible to pests and can better withstand pest damage. Plan a trip to your garden every day to check on your plants and enjoy the environment.

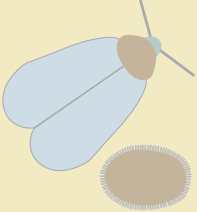
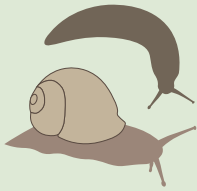




Check weeds and ground cover

Weeds and ground cover near your garden can harbor all sorts of pests and make treating pest problems difficult. Remove or treat these places if pests are found.



Garden Pest Identification

Pest	Description	IPM Strategies
<p>Whitefly</p> 	<p>Whiteflies can be found on all types of garden plants. While whiteflies can be seen flying around your plants, some immature insects stay on the plants and do not move.</p> <p>Whiteflies damage plants in large numbers. They eat sap from plants, and can cause leaves to turn yellow. Keep an eye out for sticky spots or mold on leaves!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove leaves or plants that have immature whiteflies. • Spray whiteflies and eggs off with a strong stream of water, such as with a hose or syringe. • Use insecticidal soaps or oils—they can be effective, especially if they cover the whole plant.
<p>Snail & Slug</p> 	<p>Snails and slugs can cause extensive damage in gardens. They chew on leaves, leaving irregularly shaped holes. They also leave behind slime trails.</p> <p>Snails and slugs hide during the day, often under foliage, rocks, or ground cover.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find and remove hiding spaces that snails and slugs are using. • Set up a snail and slug trap! A wooden board raised an inch off the ground will attract snails and slugs looking for a hiding place, and make it easier to find and remove them.
<p>Cabbage White Butterfly</p> 	<p>Cabbageworm, the caterpillars of cabbage white butterflies, can be very damaging to vegetable plants. They prefer cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower plants, and will chew large holes in leaves and growing vegetables.</p> <p>You can find cabbageworms and eggs on the undersides of leaves.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand pick eggs and caterpillars from plants to keep populations low enough to avoid plant damage. • Treat overpopulations of cabbageworms with products that are lower-risk to beneficial insects like pollinators. Insecticidal soaps and biological insecticides can be effective.
<p>Earwig</p> 	<p>Earwigs can damage young garden plants and can chew holes in flowers and fruit. However, they also eat other damaging insects in your garden, including aphids. Therefore, management for earwigs should be focused on keeping the population below a damaging level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make an earwig trap to reduce earwig numbers! To make a trap, fill a shallow container with vegetable oil. Add a small amount of a strong-smelling attractant like fish oil, soy sauce, or molasses. Bury the trap in the ground to the soil level. Empty the can every few days.
<p>Weeds</p> 	<p>Weeds can be any plant growing where it is not wanted. In gardens, weeds can compete with garden plants for resources. They can also provide harborage for insect pests.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify your weed first. Different types of plants require different treatments. • Remove weeds by hand before they reproduce to help keep weed populations low.