

Organic **PEST CONTROL**

All-Natural Pest Solutions To Protect Your Garden!



TOM FORD

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Introduction

Pest control means management and regulation of species that are perceived to be harmful for the environment as well as human health.

There are natural and synthetic ways of controlling garden pest but organic, natural, methods are safer for the health of the plant and are also less expensive. They are safer for the environment as well as for your family members who may come in direct contact with the garden.

Plants that are sprayed with synthetic pesticides not only lack certain essential nutrients but can also kill beneficial soil microbes and create an unhealthy environment. Pesticides are not only harmful for the health of the plants but they have also been linked to Alzheimer's, childhood cancer, health conditions and even fertility issues.

Another aspect that should be noted is that all pests are not bad. When harmful insects attack plants good bugs move in to eat them. But when you spray pesticides on all the plants, you kill not only the bad guys but the good ones too, ultimately, exposing your gardens to more threats.

Pesticides can be very damaging to your own health and of those who come in direct contact with the plants. So read along to know why you should use organic pest control methods instead of pesticides, and how you can save not only your garden but also the health of your plants and those who come in contact with them.

Why Control Pests Organically?

Using organic pest control is a sign of responsible gardening. Chemical pesticides are not only a risk to your garden but they also pose a risk to you, your family, children and pets.

Chemical pesticides eliminate all insects, even the ones that are known to be beneficial for your garden. These pesticides are also harmful because they can seep into water sources like lakes and rivers and contaminate them, leaving years of damage and poisoning water sources to an extent where the consequences would be irreversible.

Some gardeners think the only way of protecting their gardens is to launch an effective pesticide defense but what they fail to realize is, the amount of damage that these pesticides cause not only to their plants but also to themselves and loved ones. This is because an effective pesticide defense would mean having to use more chemical pesticides to get rid of pests. These would also affect the quality of your soil in a negative manner. Overuse of such pesticides could render the soil useless because of the quantity of chemicals in such pesticides.

Using organic methods to get rid of pests would be a great idea. Not only would these methods get rid of pests but they could also improve the quality of the soil. Doing a bit of research will help you find a lot of organic and effective ways that you can use to prevent and get rid of the pests.

The hazardous effects of chemical pesticides cannot be stressed upon enough. Researchers have even concluded that gardeners who come in regular contact with chemical pesticides are more prone to:

- **Neurological Disorders**
- **Asthma**
- **Lymphoma**

- **Childhood Leukemia**
- **Parkinson's Disease**
- **And Many Others...**

The problem with chemical pesticides is that once these leave their containers they are out in the open. Anyone or anything can inhale these pesticides and this would affect their health. Think of chemical pesticides as you would of smoke from a cigarette- it is difficult to get rid of these from the system and anyone using such pesticides is likely to suffer because of their effects in the short run and they are likely to affect you in the long run too.

Remnants of these chemical pesticides have also been found in the bloodstream of many patients who are suffering from certain types of cancer. These include: leukemia, breast cancer, cervical cancer, testicular cancer and such like.

The worst part is that there is no way to remove these from the system and the chemicals can adhere to various parts of the body internally causing a lot of harm. You are likely to suffer from some disease or the other because of these pesticides. That is very alarming.

Chemical pesticides are not only harmful for people who come in direct contact with them but they can easily be brought in to your house through your pets or children. Pesticides that find their way in your house can easily be absorbed in the skin or your family members could be breathing them in to their lungs.

Studies show that while chemical pesticides may decompose rather quickly in daylight and heat, they can persist in an indoor environment for longer. In some cases they might persist for years in stuffed toys, furniture and carpets.

The only way to save yourself and your loved ones from the hazardous effects of chemical pesticides is to switch to organic pest control methods. It is not only a perfect

way of controlling pest and maintaining healthy garden and plants but it will also drastically reduce the chances of indoor air pollution.

Here we'll look at some of the major benefits of using organic pest control methods.

The Unique Benefits

Following are the unique advantages of using organic pest control methods:

1. Controlling pests organically is a non-hazardous way to ensure the safety of not only your health but also that of your family, pets and the ecosystem of your garden.
2. It is a highly recommended method of controlling pest in schools, hospitals and houses. If you have a garden inside your house or any place where there are pets, children and aged people then it is strongly advised to use organic methods of pest control because chemical pesticides make the air toxic.
3. In contrast to chemical pesticides, organic pesticides are completely safe for the environment.
4. The use of organic methods of controlling pests is highly recommended for agricultural lands and gardens as they do not affect the fertility of the land in any way. On the other hand chemical pesticides can reduce the fertility of the soil in the long run.
5. Chemical products like pest killing sprays, acids and weed killers are highly toxic and pest control aerosol cans in particular have been linked to lung cancer and lung disorders.
6. Organic pest control methods are inexpensive as compared to chemical pesticides.

7. You can prepare organic pesticides just by using simple products that you can find in your house.

Problems Many Gardeners Face

There are many problems that home gardeners face, but here are a few of the most common ones:

Wrong Soil or Poor Soil Conditions

Plants depend on the soil for their nutrients. However, if plants are kept in poor soil or the wrong kind of soil, they could start rotting or show signs of stunted growth. This may also make it difficult for any seeds to germinate properly or grow at all.

This happens because the ecosystem of the soil is misbalanced and you'll have to introduce nutrients to the soil manually to rectify the situation. Furthermore, you'll have to keep on replenishing the soil's nutrients if you want to have healthy plants.

Compost, lime and organic fertilizers are a good, nutrient rich, organic supplement to add to the soil to curb this problem.

[>> Check out my "Perfect Compost" book for more information.](#)

Too Much or Not Enough Sunlight

Plants thrive on sunlight but each has their own preference. Some like a lot of sunlight while others require more shaded spots. Keep your plants happy by knowing which spot in the garden they're going to like.

By giving the right amount of sunlight which is more suited to them, you'll be able to grow a variety of plants and understand their preferences as well.

Chemical Pesticides

Chemical pesticides are the worst things to use on your garden. While some scenarios may call for them, make sure that if you must use them, it is as mild as possible.

These pesticides degenerate and get absorbed at a much slower pace. This means that once you use them, minute traces of them are always around the garden and in the soil. Too much chemical pesticide can lead to your garden getting dull and sick over time.

Furthermore, these pesticides can cling to your clothes and wreak havoc when exposed to your skin. We'll discuss this very issue in the following sections.

Garden Pests

The most common problems that most gardeners face in their home gardens are usually regarding pests. However, if you've been using chemical pesticides, you might find that your garden's ecosystem is under a lot more strain.

The best way to counter that condition is with the help of organic pest control alternatives.

Good Bugs vs. Bad Bugs

The circle of life is always active and in your garden, you'll find that the pests which eat your sentient plants are in turn, eaten by other, bigger bugs. Its nature's ecological cycle and there isn't much you can do to prevent this from happening.

To benefit from this though, you must make friends with these "good" bugs and make sure they keep visiting your garden to work and protect it from unwanted pests. That means you should consider 'allowing' these pests to visit your garden from time to time but keep a watch over them.

Having too many pests could ruin the quality of the soil and the growth of your plants. But, the lacking of these pests could harm your garden in various ways, in which, other animals and insects that benefit from the presence of such insects would actually die off.

For a thriving garden, you want to maintain the ecological balance so that your garden, the animals, insects and plants are healthy without letting things get out of control.

That's why it's important to understand exactly which pests are good and which ones are bad. In order to learn that, let's take a deeper look...

What Are The Good Bugs?

Such bugs are known as the Gardener's little helpers and every gardener wants to encourage them to come to their garden. They're the ones who eat the pests that in turn chomp on your plants, your fruits and vegetables. The right amount of 'good bugs' would be great for your garden because they would help you with the 'bad guys'.



The Good Guys!

There are even good bugs that help in keeping the soil well aerated or help in pollination such as the earthworm which turns the soil and help introduce more oxygen and nitrogen into the soil very naturally and the honey bee which pollinates the flowers as it gathers nectar from them.

Good bugs can range from flying, crawling or creeping bugs and they have a number of other benefits too apart from eating the bad bugs. Here are examples of some bugs that would be great for you garden and plants:

Lady Beetles

These beetles (and their offspring) feed on harmful pests. These look like little alligators and tend to be orange around the edges. These eat aphids, thrips and mealy bugs. Gardeners love this little insect because it can get rid of a range of pests that harm your garden.

Praying Mantis

Think of the praying mantis as the bodybuilder of your garden because it can take on the biggest insects. These guys are capable of taking down caterpillars, Lady Beetles and other pests of the sort. The praying mantis has a big appetite and some even refer to it as a predator because of this.

Ground Beetles

These are usually green in color and they feed on larvae, maggots, slugs, cutworms and such like. These guys actually hunt for pests and insects.

Syrphid Flies

These look a lot like bees and you can find them curled under rocks and such like. Syrphid flies also assist in pollination.

[>> Here's a great website that talks more about "good bugs"](#)

What Are The Bad Bugs?

Bad bugs are a gardener's bane and no garden can flourish with these bugs always chomping down everything that is fresh and juicy. The worst thing you can do to get rid of them is to use synthetic pesticide sprays.



The Bad Guys!

Not only do such sprays kill pests, they also harm the plant and kill or discourage the good bugs from showing up again. Some bad bugs can also develop immunity to a certain type of pesticide and can come back with a vengeance.

What bad bugs do is that, they constantly munch on your plants. So if you were to wake up one fine morning to discover that there are little holes (or one large hole) in a few leaves, your plant has just been attacked by a bad bug. Some of these tend to leave excretions on plants that smell bad and these excretions, then, cause various funguses to grow and spread on your plant.

What such funguses do is that they limit the amount of oxygen available to your plant and prevent them from photosynthesizing. This would result in stunt growth.

Where fruits are concerned, these bugs would attack your fruits or vegetables and get into them by digging tiny holes into them. These holes are quite apparent- all you need to do is to inspect them.

[>> Here's a great website that list both the "bad & good" bugs](#)

Why You Should Get Good Bugs

There's an old adage which proves true for this scenario, '*The enemy of my enemy is my friend*'.

Similarly, the good bugs are your best friends and in this war against the bad guys, they're the perfect artillery to use instead of pesticides which might do more harm than good.

The good bugs, however, only consider the bad bugs as food and where there is plenty of food; they'll be there to enjoy the free, all-they-can-eat buffet that Nature put out for them.

However, before you think all the hard work is already over, you have to learn how, when and what conditions induce good bugs to come pay your garden a visit. After all, just having bad bugs is not enough to make them want to come over.

You have to lay out a welcome mat for them too. Here are some proven tips on how you can 'invite' them to your garden:

1. Plant some umbrella-shaped flowers in your garden. Certain wasps can access these and they then, feed on other pests such as caterpillars and aphids. A good flower of the sort is the yarrow flower. It's a good idea to plant these in patches in different areas in the garden. But it's important to not overcrowd the garden.
2. Grow native plants from time to time. Doing so will help attract various pollinators and insects which are great for your garden's ecosystem.

3. Grow plants and herbs like dill, lavender, lemon balm, parsley and thyme to attract these plants. Alyssum and catmint would attract ladybirds which would help in spreading pollen grains.

4. Don't worry if you see earthworms and ants in your garden. These are good for your garden!

In addition to these tips, consider profiling the insects that you can see in your garden. This way you can take action against the bad bugs while attracting those that would be beneficial for your garden.

Generally speaking, it's a good idea to let the bugs take care of the garden because using chemical insecticides and pesticides tends to wipeout a large number of bad bugs and also kills the "good" guys as well, something you want to avoid!

Promoting The Good Bugs

You're going to have to work out different methods when it comes to attracting the good bugs. This is because these bugs will come in different forms, some can live in the soil, some act as pollination aids and others prey on the bad bugs that might be making a meal out of your plants.

However, you need to give them the right habitat to encourage them to come and stay in your lovely garden. Even if you opt to buy the good bugs instead of attracting them to your garden, they won't stay if it is not habitable for them.

Good bugs can be broken down into the following three groups based on the benefits they provide:

- **The Soil Workers**
- **The Pollinators**
- **The Predators**

The Soil Workers

These bugs remain on the ground level and take care of any pests that may be burrowing into the soil to hide from other predators. By turning and churning the soil the soil workers expose these to predators that are in search of food. These soil workers are usually centipedes, millipedes, ground beetles and other insects that also like to live in the earth.

Soil workers like earthworms are also extremely beneficial since they aerate the soil and mix it up a bit.



Great Soil Workers

For earthworms, you'll need damp soil conditions since their skins are too sensitive to the sun. Watering the plants and the soil from time to time should help- this is why you are likely to notice a lot of these after a heavy shower: they prefer such conditions. Centipedes, millipedes also favor such conditions so don't be surprised if you see them around your plant's base.

Ground beetles come where you have weeds and leaf litters, so be sure to leave a few around. Promoting these beetles is great because they eat off other bad bugs that may come their way.

The Pollinators

If you've got flowers, you're sure to attract bees, wasps and other bugs that love the nectar and pollen that can be found among flowers. You are a lot more likely to see these in the spring because the weather conditions, then, are ideal for these insects.

Whether they're bumble bees, honey bees or even hover flies, they'll not only keep pests away, they will also help to pollinate your plants, fertilizing them and encouraging fruits, vegetables and other plants to grow.



Pollinators Are Very Important!

Pollinators can function as predators as well such as the hover fly which spends its adult life pollinating a variety of flowers but it also lays eggs near aphid colonies. The larvae of the hover fly will hatch out and make a meal out of all the aphids they can find.

Even if you don't have flowers, plant a few to attract bees and hover flies that will eventually move on to other plants. This would be a great way to work on the 'natural

defense system' of your garden too.

The Predators

These bugs are largely there because of the bounty of bad bugs that your garden attracts. They hunt and eat a large number of the bad guys and are largely responsible for reducing their numbers as much as possible.

The right amount of predators could help control the number of 'harmful' pests in your garden. You want these guys around and you would have to provide them with the supply of food that they are in search of. That is why it is necessary that you do not wipe out certain pests but just minimize their quantity.

These predators can be lady bugs, lacewings, dragon flies and damsel bugs etc. They're fierce little bugs and they love to feast on the larvae and eggs of the bad bugs.



Predators Hunt The Bad Guys!

All these bugs can be easily attracted if you plant coreopsis, dill, basil, angelica, yarrow, alfalfa and fennel. Even if there isn't an influx of pests, these good bugs will stick around and keep your garden free of pests. Just make sure to avoid using chemical pesticides once you have a good bug ecosystem established.

Ecosystem & Level Pest Control

When you have such healthy good bug/bad bug ecosystem going, you'll realize that they're not the only creatures that creep forth into your garden. There are certain other visitors that come creeping. Whether they want to chomp on your plants or get at the bugs you have, the following are a few common visitors to the home garden:

Garden Vertebrates

These vertebrates are animal pests that don't mind being in close contact with humans and tend to creep in and out very easily. They can be in the form of gophers and voles or may even be in the form of garden snakes.



Garden Vertebrates

House mice, voles and gophers come for the bugs but they can cause a lot of damage since they will also help themselves to the plants they want and leave the chewed bits behind. You do not want that because they would ruin the quality of your plants and you'd find yourself having to grow plants, which took you months to grow, all over again.

Wild Vertebrates

These are rarer because they are more reluctant to be near humans but if you grow the right plants, it might be too tempting for them to avoid foraging in your garden. They can be rabbits, deer mice and ground squirrels etc, depending on what kind are more common in your locality.

These animals not only ruin the plants but their tramping and barging can damage the turf, ruin the fence and mess up the soil itself. Wild vertebrates are also often under protection of the law so it's better if you take all measures to make sure that they stay away from your garden before you're forced to get rid of them in a harsher manner.



Some Common Wild Vertebrates

Farm Animals

While farm animals are not common to prey on a garden, they can also easily find their way into a lush garden and make a meal of whatever catches their fancy. Goats and other livestock can often jump the fence and nibble on the plants.



Farm Animals

To avoid those scenarios make sure that you have the proper traps and fence height that discourages these pests from coming into your garden. You should also try to make sure that all the traps and preventive measures are properly in place.

This ensures that even if pests do get into your garden, they're not tempted to stay or tarry for very long.

Organic Methods For Pest Control

We mentioned how different species of vertebrae and farm animals will cause havoc to your beloved garden. It's important to note that for most gardeners, one of the biggest threats are the - bad bugs!

While promoting the arrival of good bugs are a great line of defense, it's not always easy to set a good bug ecosystem in place. So as you work to get your friendly buddies to come over, in the meantime, you can take a look at the following advice regarding organic sprays and organic pesticides that help to control the bad bugs.

Best Organic Sprays for Pest

There are no single best organic sprays to treat pests. While it is recommended that you avoid the usage of pest sprays, organic or inorganic, to get rid of pests since they might also kill the beneficial bugs, if you must use them, they should only be considered as a last resort.

For instance, if you feel there are too many of these bugs in your garden, you could consider using these if all else fails.

When you're looking to get the best organic pest spray, many people like to use sprays that have all natural ingredients and that depend on the natural repelling properties of those ingredients. Don't be fooled by sprays that promise certain benefits and learn to incorporate other measures. Even for organic sprays, these types of solutions should always be your last resort.

Always opt for a natural alternative to bug prevention, if all possible.

Best Organic Soil Treatments

Once again, there's not one treatment that can be recommended. It's a trial and error methodology that can yield various results. To get the best out of your soil, you're going to have to incorporate more than one mode of treatment.

The perfect soil is loamy and feels moist yet is still dry to the touch. Treating the soil can be done by identifying the current qualities that are present in the soil.

[>> Check out my "Perfect Compost" book for more information.](#)



Soil Treatment

Some localities also have a naturally alkaline or acidic soil content which some local plants might favor but which might also be unsuitable for others. With combined usage of organic fertilizers, mulch and compost, you can potter around with the soil.

Furthermore, hoeing the earth also helps to turn and aerate the soil making it richer and allowing oxygen to seep into it and be absorbed by the plants.

Make Your Organic Pest Controls At Home

If you decide to pursue the use of organic sprays, it's a good idea to start making your very own supply.

Whipping up an all-purpose spray is extremely easy to make and cost efficient. Since it's a DIY spray, you'll have no problems getting your hands on the ingredients for the spray such as ginger and onion which are considered to be natural repellents. Moreover, since these are all natural ingredients, they won't do much harm to your beloved plants.



Make Your Own Products

You can also utilize barrier paper around delicate plants or cloches to physically keep them secure until they're stronger to put up with the pestering insects that would otherwise devour them completely.

If going the organic spray route, check out these simple homemade recipes below:

Homemade Recipe #1

This is great all-purpose spray you can use throughout the garden.

Ingredients:

15 cloves of garlic

1 onion

3 cayenne peppers

½ teaspoon liquid castile soap

4 cups warm water

Directions:

1. Combine all the ingredients into a blender.
2. Blend until the solution is puree.
3. Pour entire mixture into a glass jar. Tightly seal the lid and allow to sit undisturbed for 8-24 hours.
4. Strain the mixture through a fine cheesecloth. Now, add ½ teaspoons of castile soap and give it a good mix.
5. Pour the mixture into a portable spray bottle.

To Use:

- Spray on the tops and bottoms of leaves.
- Storage in the fridge and if properly strained, this solution can last for 1-3 months.

Homemade Recipe #2

This is a great general insecticidal spray that'll help prevent nasty bugs from harming your garden.

Ingredients:

1 ½ teaspoon of castile soap

1 quart water

Directions:

1. Combine all ingredients into a portable spray bottle.

To Use:

- This is an effective insecticide that'll work for common garden pest such as: aphid, earworms, borers, mites, whiteflies, maggots and more.

Choose Resistant Plants/ Protection

Another thing that can make your task of looking after the welfare of your home garden much easier is by choosing to get plants that are naturally strong, sturdy and resistant to the attacks of plants.

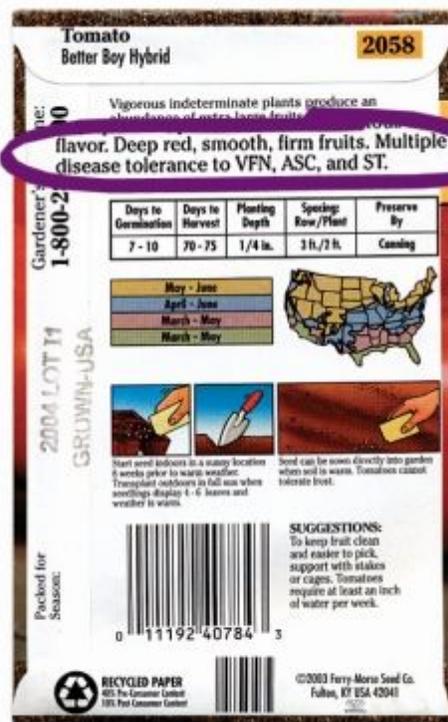
Or you could utilize certain protective structures to keep them safe until they're stronger. The following are some of the plants that you can utilize and some of the planting techniques that you could try to keep them safe and healthy:

Varieties

Certain plants have certain varieties that are resistant to a bugs or plant diseases. You can plant tomatoes, onions, garlic, basil, dill, Artemisia and other plants that not only chase away pests but also drive away mosquitoes and other flies that are considered as pests by us.

If you're not sure about which varieties to get your hands, head on down to the farmer's market and ask a seasoned gardener. Other than the abundance of varieties, you can also now pick plants that are actually created to be resistant to diseases.

These plants have been genetically 'perfected' in such a way so that they are able to grow without getting affected by pests that could harm them. Such plants are widely available everywhere and you can check the information on the seed packets to see which diseases they're able to resist easily.



Check Out The Farmers Market

***For example:** VFN on the label of the seeds means that they are resistant to nematodes and types of fungi such as Verticillium and Fusarium.*

A good thing to do is to get more information online. There is also tons of information online regarding the kinds of varieties that one can plant safely and easily in their home garden. You may even find that some varieties of plants are more easily available online than in the market place.

Row Covers

As discussed earlier, certain plant varieties also need to be protected and kept under cover until they're stronger. This can be because of the weather being too harsh for them or to keep the bugs out of them but they are amazingly effective since gardeners everywhere have been using them easily and effectively for quite some time.



Row Covers

Row covers can be made out of gentle, breathable materials that let in air and sunlight while effectively keeping out the bugs. They can also be made of thin plastic which heats up during the day and it might increase the temperature inside the cover.

While many plants enjoy the greenhouse effect, it may become too hot and create a certain level of humidity which encourages certain fungi to flourish.

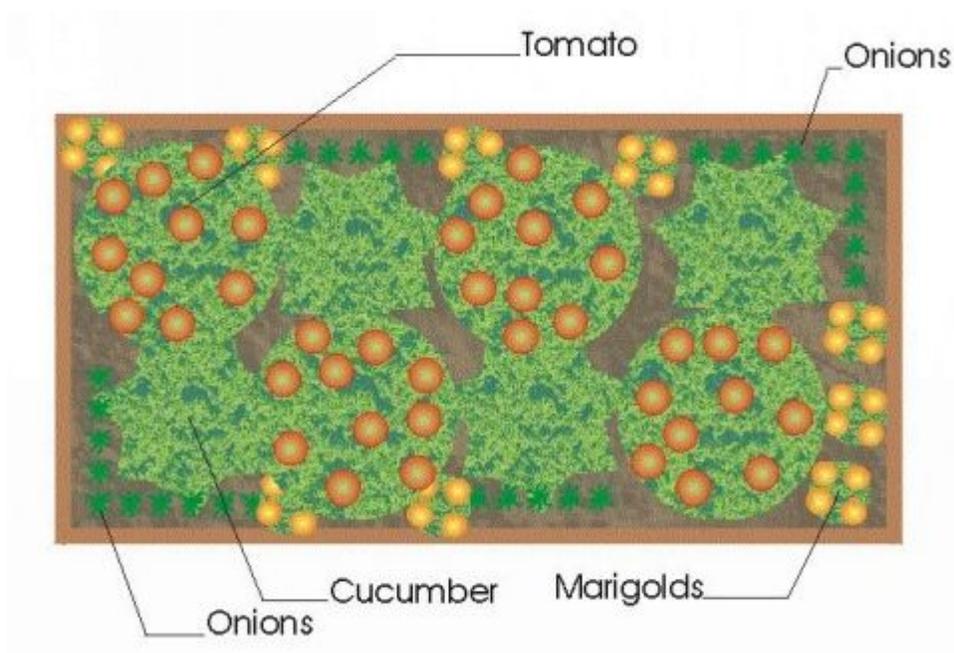
You can find different types of row covers but try to get your hands on a cover that is translucent yet is resistant enough to block entry of insects.

Floating row covers are ideal for your plants in the winter. You can find these in all sizes and the heavier they tend to be, the better these are at protecting your plants from frost and the cold weather. This is a great protective solution because your plants would be able to utilize the sunlight while staying protected from the frost.

Companion Plants

Another trick that home gardeners can use is to utilize companion gardening. Companion gardening involves planting two or more plants together which allows both plants to thrive in a profitable, pest preventive manner since both plants work together to distract or repel pests.

This mode of gardening also helps one to utilize space as efficiently as possible.



Example of a Garden Layout

Just make sure to keep plants of a nature together. Do not plant something that likes loads of water and shade to grow with a plant that needs sunlight and prefers dry conditions. The outcome won't be good since you won't be able to provide what one plant needs without harming the other.

When it comes to planning, there are various plants, herbs and flowers out there that act as great repellants. You could try sowing these before going for something more

drastic. This way you wouldn't have to worry about wiping out pests and insects, by resorting to the use of chemical fertilizers that you need in your garden either.

You could also grow blood flowers which would keep worms away. Tansy is another herb which could keep male mosquitoes away from the flowers. These herbs are very effective and growing them in the right amount will mean you won't have to resort to chemical pesticides.

Hands on Bug Control!

Even with the best bug control and ecosystem in place – sometimes – the best way to get rid of bugs is to pick them off plants and the soil. This is where you have to willing to get down and dirty.

You might be thinking that you'll have the good bugs fight your war for you; you will also have to roll up your sleeves and get to work. Sometimes the bugs need to be removed by you because they tend to hide in spots and places where no other bug or animal can detect them.

Whether the plants are inside or outside, certain pests such as caterpillars can be picked off easily before they do further damage. Just follow these guidelines on how to achieve that:

How To Manually Hand Pick Bugs

First of all, do not touch any pests without having thick, rubber gloves on. Certain pests secrete weird substances that are meant to discourage their natural predators from eating them. Then, there are those bugs that excrete very smelly liquids which would adhere to you or to your clothes.

While these secretions may not always be harmful, they can irritate the skin and will have you itching or in some other discomfort. Therefore, a general rule of thumb is to always wear a pair of thick, rubber gloves before you start picking off bugs. It's always better to be safe than to be sorry. Because you never know what might happen!



Always Wear Protective Gloves!

Carry a large, paper bag with you in which you can discard all the bugs that you picked off. Make sure that you have something to tie the neck of the bag with since you don't want the bugs escaping while you gather more. You could also go for old glass containers instead. This would decrease the chances of these bugs flying away since such containers will not tear easily.

While some bugs might be easily visible on top of plants or on twigs etc. you might have to put a little more effort in finding them too. Look for bugs under the leaves, near the roots and stems of the plants. Don't be afraid of probing into these areas. Carry a pair of tweezers with you, if you must, to reach spots and places that your fingers cannot access.

Follow the signs that these pests leave such as chewed up leaves, eggs, droppings, tracks in the soil etc. Some insects, such as grasshoppers, would have chewed on some of your leaves while others will have made their presence more obvious in other ways. If you want to pick off the eggs of certain pests that you might find, use tweezers or a cotton ball swab to get at them.



Trim Heavily Infected Parts

In certain plants, if the leaf or a portion that you're inspecting is too heavily infected, take a pair of clippers and simply cut that portion off. Try to do this as firmly and quickly as possible so that the insects do not fall to the ground and scurry away. Make sure that you're storing all the bugs and infected pieces in the large, paper bag.

After you gathered all the bugs and infected parts of the plants, make sure to burn the clippings and the bugs in the bag to make sure they don't return and infect any other parts of your garden (this may sound a bit harsh but it will guarantee these pest do not return).

Another thing that you should pay attention to is the fact that many bugs are camouflaged. This means that they might be in front of you and you still won't see them. For example, caterpillars are masters at this since they spend a lot of time chewing and lazing in the sun. They depend upon their camouflaging skills to hide themselves from their enemies. When it comes to such insects it might be a good idea to consider carrying a magnifying glass with you to make the whole process easier.

Remember to work at a slow pace and to take your time. Don't be in a rush to complete picking off the bugs. This is not a task that gets done in an hour or two. Even after a week, you might stumble across bugs that managed to previously, slip through your fingers.

This is an ongoing process. It'll be a good idea to continue to do this once or twice a week.

Set Up Traps for Bugs

For certain insects, you might only find the traces they leave but there might be no sight of them around since they're masters at hiding. For this, you'll have to place traps in certain areas of your garden.

Whether they're nocturnal or simply not in the area, setting up traps will help you to sleep peacefully at night, knowing that your plants are guarded well.

It might seem ludicrous setting up traps for bugs but these are extremely effective in helping you get to your quarry. The following are some simple DIY, yet very effective means of setting up budget friendly traps:

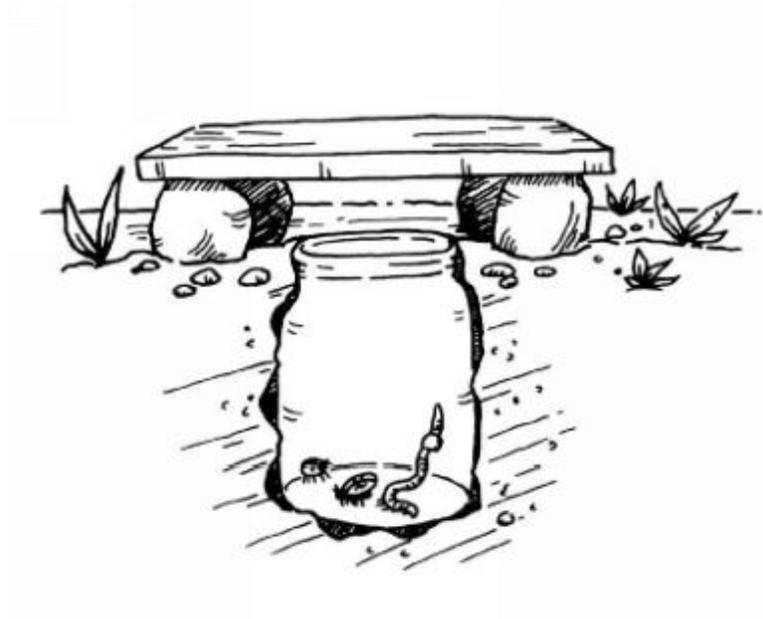
Fly paper

Simple old flypaper that can be bought from any hardware store is great as a bug trap. Place them in areas that show signs of being frequented bugs. To sweeten the deal, smear some sugary water on top of the fly paper to make them want to come on it.

Leave over night and check back in the morning. Growing certain types of plants, that would lure such pests towards themselves, and placing a flying paper near them would be a good way to capture pests. Not only is this effective but it would also be a great way to trap multiple types of pests at the same time.

Jar Trap

Dig a hole and place a jar whole in it. Make sure that the hole is deep enough to allow the whole jar to fit in till the mouth. Place little tidbits inside the jar and cover the opening slightly with some dirt and leaves. Leave overnight and check in the morning. You are bound to find some pests in these by the time you wake up.



Example of a Jar Trap

Sugar Water

Take a jar and fill it with some sugary, water. Roll some paper and make a cone. Put the cone inside the jar but make sure that the tip does not touch the sugar water. This will make it difficult for the bugs to escape once they come down the cone and fatten themselves on the sugar water.

There are other similar traps that you can make but give these a try. Be sure to check your traps and release any bugs that belong to the good bug family.

Keeping Your Plants Healthy

While you're focusing on getting rid of the pests and bad bugs, don't forget to keep your plants happy and healthy.

When it comes to plants, it's not too hard to keep them healthy but if you neglect to make sure that they're watered well or if they're protected properly, you might find your plants dying really quickly.

To ensure that your plants stay happy and healthy, take a look at the following tips:

Pay Attention to the Soil

Plants usually succumb too easily to disease or an attack from a bug. However, if you pay attention to all the things mentioned in this eBook, all you need to do is to pay attention to the soil content to know if your plants are truly happy or not.

The best thing to do is to pot a plant since you can change its soil more easily as compared to trying to change the soil of your garden. Nonetheless, if you pick hardy plants, you'll find that they do not complain about the soil conditions as much as delicate varieties might.

Monitor Water Intake

Plants need water but like we mentioned earlier, not all of them want the same amount of water. The best thing to do in this scenario is to find out which one's need more and keep them together.

This is also a useful aspect to pay attention to if you're thinking of companion gardening since plants that share the same habits will fare well together. Know which plants require more water and which plants are happy with the amount you've put in the soil.

A good way to check if they have enough water is to poke at the soil and study how wet and moist is it. This also helps find certain bugs which might have been hiding from the heat of the day.

Provide the Right Light

Like the water demands, certain plants like certain kinds of light. On the other hand, some plants want shady places. That's why; you have to pay attention to this factor as well since too much sunlight or too little sunlight might start making the plant go bad.



Too Much Sunlight Is Bad!

Get to know your plants well, pay attention to them and you'll be able to figure out what makes them happy and what doesn't as quickly as possible. Furthermore, for some plants, certain items can be very beneficial and can give an added boost to their growth.

For instance, adding crushed eggshells to the soil around cabbages or lettuce will make them happier since the eggshells will enrich the soil but also repel slugs and snails that like to chomp on these plants.

Tips For Plant Care

Now that we've stressed out about how you need to take care of your plant family, we'll impart some tips that you can use to take care of your plants. When you use them, you'll find that it is much easier to take care of your garden.

Examine the Roots

Before you choose to buy a plant or start to treat it for something, take a look at its roots. A plant's roots will show significant signs of good health or bad health and it's best to examine them.

Good root health will show you firm, white, evenly spaced roots as shown in the image on the left hand side. On the other hand, mushy or dark roots are a bad sign since it means that they are diseased.



Examine For Root Health

To check the roots of a plant, grab its stem firmly and start tilting it very carefully. Give the pot a good tap or two to shake it loose then get a good look at the roots to judge it.

***Never buy a plant without checking the roots because it can easily infect your healthy garden with its disease as well.*

Keep an Eye on the Bugs

While you may have a good bug ecosystem, never get too relaxed and never forget about what you're supposed to be doing, which is making sure that the bad bugs don't win. Check on your bugs every two days to see how effective they are.



Check For Bugs Frequently

If you administered an organic treatment, give it a day or two before checking to see what impact it had on the bugs. Never forget about them since it would come as a surprise to you if the bad bugs start growing because the good ones left and you never noticed.

Clean Up After Fall

Another good way to control the bug population and the spread of disease is by cleaning up after fall. During fall, certain leaves and plants shed leaves or get dead branches and leaves.

It's best to clean these up since the leaf litter can encourage plant disease as well as encourage bugs to come. While certain good bugs are also attracted to these nests, it's best if you choose to clean up.

You will also need to clip certain plants that have injured or wounded leaves. Whether that was because of the pests or not, these can become easily infected and the best thing to do is to use a sharp pair of clippers to make a clean cut. Making a clean cut is important since it allows the plants to heal easily.

Avoid Over-Crowding

Plants can also get distressed if you plant them too close together. Plants need room to breathe and room to let their roots stretch. If you have too many plants stuffed into one corner, you'll create a certain competition for light, water and even air.



Over-Crowding is Bad!

This also makes crowded plants create their own humidity which in turn makes it easy for harmful fungi and bugs to flourish in that environment like powdery mildew.

However, you don't just have to make sure your plants are well spaced. You also have to make sure that your plants stay well spaced. By quarterly trimmings, you can make sure that your plants thrive in a controlled manner.

Conclusion

Fighting off bad bugs in an organic manner is easier and more do-able than you might have expected. We hope that with the help of this short eBook, you've been able to garner some useful knowledge regarding organic pest control practices.

You no longer have to put yourself or your family and pets in risk since organic methods are completely harmless yet totally beneficial for you. Before we bid you good bye, here are a few more tips to keep in mind when you're practicing organic pest control:

- You might have to use more than one organic pest control method so be prepared for a little elbow grease!
- Be prepared to spend some time to trim and examine your plants carefully. Give them the proper time and attention. If you have a big garden, it might take more than an hour or two to give it a proper inspection.
- When buying new plants, make sure to give it a thorough inspection. Don't be embarrassed that you have to look at it so closely in the plant seller's shop. You don't want to expose nasty bugs or diseases to all your healthy plants that came in because of one sick plant.
- Make a quarantine section. This is really the most beneficial thing since it allows you to nurse ill plants away from your healthier ones. You can also house new plants here and keep them for a week or two until it is okay to slip them into your own garden.

- Be sure to do some research regarding good bugs and bad bugs. The only way that you can identify them would be visually so learn how they look like as eggs, small larvae and as adult bugs.

While it might seem like a lot, if you're truly invested in your garden, you'll soon develop an eye for this and you'll be getting done with it all in one day.

Don't be frustrated if it seems like the bugs are winning. Try and try again or just nuke 'em with some organic pesticide but only as a last resort.

Do the good fight and keep your garden healthy. I wish you the best of luck!

About Author

Tom Ford is an expert at everything related to leaves, trees, flowers and pretty much everything that grows in the moist aromatic soil.

He has been gardening since the age of six when he assisted his grandmother in taking care of her vegetable garden.

Since then he has pursued a career in horticulture and has become a recognizable authority providing his expertise and sharing this passion with others.

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