

Utilizing Integrated Pest Management

Step One: Inspect

Routinely monitor for pests and if pests or evidence of pest damage is found determine if it warrants action – sometimes a few nibbles on one plant won't become substantial damage. Keep routinely inspecting plants to see if damage worsens.



Step Two: Prevent

Physical controls like preventing plant crowding, removing dead or rotting plant material, installing insect netting or other physical barriers, or researching beneficial insects (like ladybugs and lacewings) can prevent infestations of “bad” pests. A quick search of “physical pest control for (insect name) .edu” will bring up a list of helpful suggestions backed by university research.

Step Three: Control

If substantial damage or potential substantial damage is detected use the minimum amount of pesticide possible, or consider sticky traps or physical removal of pests by hand. Remove insects with gloved hands and toss them in a soap and water solution to kill them.



Need an Organic Pesticide? Use This List:

Bacillus Thuringiensis (Bt)

What It Is: Microbe found in soil

Use For: Insects eating your plants (ex, armyworms, cabbage loopers)

How it Works: Acts as a stomach poison



Pyrethrin

What It Is: Derived from the chrysanthemum

Used For: Multiple (ex, ants, leafhoppers, thrips)

How It Works: Contact Poison; Immediate impact; disrupts the nervous system



Neem Oil

What It Is: Extract of the neem tree

Use For: Many Insects and Fungal infections (ex. hornworm, earworm, aphids)

How it Works: Antifungal; Stomach poison/suffocant; Repellant

Insecticidal Soap

What It Is: A soap solution (NOTE: we do NOT recommend a mix of dish soap and water; dish soap contains a slew of ingredients not made for plants or soil!)

Use For: Small soft-bodied insects (ex, thrips, white flies, aphids)

How It Works: Contact Poison; Kills by suffocation and disrupts cellular membranes



Spinosad

What It Is: Soil Bacteria

Used For: Multiple (Caterpillars, leaf miners, some beetles)

How It Works: Contact Poison; Affects the nervous system



Read all instructions and do not over apply! In order to protect pollinators apply in the early morning and late evening and allow to dry. Only use what you need!