

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Your Garden

Prevention

Avoid pests through plant selection, maintenance, irrigation, and fertilization.

Monitoring

Regularly inspect plants for pests or signs of damage.

Identification

Correctly ID both the plant and the pests that are present.

Management

Use IPM strategies to manage pest populations. Monitor treatments to determine effectiveness and need for further treatment.



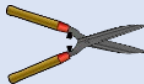
Cultural

Keep plants healthy.
Make the environment
less suitable for pests.



Mechanical

Keep pests away from
plants or physically
remove them.



Biological

Beneficial insects and
pathogens can help to
suppress pests. Encourage
them in your garden by
including habitat for
them.



IPM Management Strategies

Chemical

Synthetic or organic
pesticides should be used
only to control pests
when other methods have
failed.





Squash Bugs

Crush eggs, nymphs, and adults when found. Nymphs and adults may also be placed in soapy water.

Plant summer squashes early and delay planting for winter squashes.

Companion planting with alliums, mints, and African marigolds can help to attract natural enemies.

Early season row covers (remember cucurbits need insect pollinators)

Apply diatomaceous earth (DE) around the base of the plant. Squash bugs that touch the DE will desiccate and die.

Clean up old plant material that may harbor squash bugs.

Codling Moth

- Monitor for stings and other signs of damage.
- Thin fruits to prevent them from touching each other.
- Bag fruits when they are ½ to 1 in. in diameter.
- Band trunk with sticky tape or cardboard to trap larvae.
- Horticultural oils can be used to prevent eggs from hatching.
- Remove and destroy fallen and infested fruits.





Tomato Hornworm

Tomato hornworms turn into hawk moths that are important pollinators, but if you do not have plants to share with them:

- Check leaves and green fruit for damage and caterpillars.
- Use a black light to find caterpillars at night.
- Remove caterpillars by hand and drop into soapy water.
- Control Solanaceous weeds that are also hosts.
- Row covers can protect plants .
- Encourage natural enemies, including parasitoid wasps.
- Apply Bt, a biological insecticide that is an organic option for caterpillars



Aphids

- Monitor for aphids. Low populations will not cause serious damage to plants.
- Dislodge aphids by spraying them with high pressure water.
- Control ants if they are tending aphids.
- Encourage beneficial insects, such ladybeetles, syrphid flies, and lacewings.
- Leave aphids that appear swollen – they have a parasitic wasp developing inside of them.
- Avoid broad-spectrum insecticides that can kill beneficial insects.
- Apply insecticidal soaps or neem oil to plant.

Photo: Miranda Kersten, New Mexico State University



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