



YOUR GUIDE TO A HEALTHY GARDEN

Use healthy gardening practices to control pests and attract more pollinators to your home or community garden

Control pests naturally with smart gardening practices

Smart gardening practices can keep plants healthy and able to resist and recover from pest damage.



Build healthy soil with compost and proper mulching. Before adding fertilizer, get a soil test through your local agricultural extension or conservation district.

Water more deeply and less frequently to promote root health. Water in the morning to avoid evaporation from the sun.

Attract beneficial insects by planting flowers that provide nectar, pollen and shelter.

Find the right plant for the right place

With minimal work, you can grow healthier, low-pest plants by choosing varieties best-suited for their location.



Evaluate your spring and summer climate. Long and hot, or mild and cool at night? Summer rains or drought-like conditions?

Identify naturally-growing plants where you live. Native plants will always perform best in your garden. Ask your local nursery for tips on non-native plants that grow well at home.

Divide your garden into zones. Clustering plants that grow in similar conditions allows you to manage large areas more easily.

Are your plants still pestered by pests?

Consult an expert! Determine if it's really a pest issue or if there is another reason why your plant isn't thriving. Reach out to your county's WSU Master Gardeners chapter or other local plant experts for advice.

Consider your options. Can you put this plant in another place? Are there other ways of protecting your plant from pests?



Did you know?

As of January 1, 2026, neonicotinoids, a class of pesticides known to harm pollinators, are no longer allowed for use by home gardeners on outdoor ornamental plants in Washington state. Visit WSDA's webpage to learn more!



If pest control is recommended, then you may need to contact a licensed pesticide applicator for help.

If you are applying a store-bought pesticide yourself, here are some tips:

- ✿ **Always** read the label
- ✿ **Avoid application** when pollinators are present
- ✿ **Do not treat** actively flowering plants
- ✿ **Apply** in the evening or early morning
- ✿ **Do not apply** in windy or rainy conditions



Learn more at www.zoo.org/hellopollinators