

THE Natural GARDENER

Organic Pest & Disease Control

Three-step process for identifying and treating gardening problems:

1. Correct any cultural conditions contributing to the problem, and maintain plant health organically.
2. Identify the problem/pest correctly.
3. Choose the least toxic strategy for addressing the problem/pest.

Least-toxic solutions for common gardening problems:

APHIDS:

Spray a strong blast of water every 3 - 5 days.
Release ladybugs & avoid pesticides thereafter.
Spray with fish emulsion every 5 days.
Spray with insecticidal soap every 5 days.

BLACK SPOT: (Avoid overwatering or wetting rose leaves when watering).

Pick off the most damaged leaves; rake up fallen leaves.
Spray *Serenade* Disease Control.
Spray *Potassium Bicarbonate*.

CATERPILLARS: (Avoid harming butterfly larvae).

Pick off offending caterpillars.
Spray *B.t.* (*Bacillus thuringensis*) in the evening.

CHIGGERS:

Apply diatomaceous earth or dusting sulfur.

CHINCH BUGS:

(All areas of lawn in full sun need to be treated).
Apply diatomaceous earth. (d.e.) (not pool type)
Apply *EcoSmart* Organic Insect Killer weekly 2 – 3 wks

FIRE ANTS:

Apply beneficial nematodes. (Below 90°; water weekly)
Use a mound drench such as Erath Earth's *Compost Tea*.
Apply *Dry Molasses* throughout the property.
Apply Green Light *Conserve* bait.

FLEAS:

Apply beneficial nematodes. (Below 90°; water weekly)
Apply *EcoSmart* Organic Insect Killer weekly 2 – 3 wks
Apply d.e.

GRASSHOPPERS:

Apply *Nolo Bait* to entire property. (Encourage neighbors to do the same).

GRUBWORMS: (There is no need for control if there are fewer than 5 – 10 grubs per square foot).

Apply beneficial nematodes. (Below 90°; water weekly)

MOSQUITOES: Drop *Mosquito Dunks* or *Bits* into any standing water or over wet areas of soil.

Use *Mosquito Barrier*, *Dr. T's Mosquito Repelling Granules*, *Amazon Lights Incense or Candles*, or *Yardsafe Insect Repelling Granules* as repellent.
Use *Oak Stump Mosquito Traps*.

PECAN WEBWORMS:

Release *Trichogramma* wasps in early May, mid-June, & early August (at the first sign of the *moths*).
Open webs and spray inside with *B.t.* (in the evening).

POWDERY MILDEW:

Spray undiluted cow's milk – 2X per week.
Spray *Serenade*.
Spray *Potassium Bicarbonate*.

SCALE: (Spray oils below 90°).

Spray *Organocide* horticultural oil weekly for 2 – 3 wks.
Spray *All Seasons* oil weekly for 2 – 3 wks.

SNAILS & SLUGS:

Place half-full, shallow containers of beer into the ground in shady areas.

Apply *Sluggo*.

SPIDER MITES: (Spray oils below 90°)

Spray *Organocide* or *All Seasons* oil.

SQUASH BUGS, STINK BUGS, LEAF-FOOTED BUG:

Pick bugs by hand and squish or drown in soapy water.
Dust plants with d.e.
Vacuum them up with a shop vacuum.

SQUASH VINE BORERS:

Cut slit in stem; remove borer; cover stem with soil.
Spray base of plant with *B.t.* solution weekly.

Prevention: Cover plant with lightweight row cover until female flowers form; then uncover or hand pollinate.

THRIPS & WHITEFLIES: (Spray oils below 90°)

Spray *Organocide* or *All Seasons* oil weekly, 2– 3 wks

Always remember that beneficial creatures are out there, assisting you in your garden and landscape. Learn to recognize as allies: bats, ground beetles, birds, fireflies, frogs, ladybugs, ladybug larvae, lacewings, lizards, praying mantids, garden snakes, geckos, spiders, and even wasps. Cultivate a low toxicity outlook on maintaining your outdoor and indoor environment. **Spray liquids on leaf surfaces only early in the morning or late in the evening. Only spray plants when the soil is moist – never spray a dry plant.**