

The Village Garden Center's June 2009 Garden Club Newsletter



Controlling garden pests organically

Unwanted insects in your garden are just that: unwanted. Unwanted insects may eat and destroy your crops, something shared by any farmer or home gardener. Organic gardening is a means of controlling unwanted insects naturally, without the use of dangerous pesticides.

There are many ways to control garden unwanted insects naturally that are also cheap, easy and good for the earth.

Did you know....Two thirds of the world's eggplant is grown in New Jersey!

A big part of our culture is reaching for a quick fix. It is a deep seeded and detrimental habit. Most home gardeners are unaware that pesticides may eliminate the pest, but they most often cause more harm than good. Luckily there are many alternatives.

Did you know....Slugs have no legs and their bodies are soft and slimy. They feed at night on many of the flower and vegetable plants in your garden and they rest during the day.



Apart from damaging the soil and being a health hazard to people-including our children-pesticides present a major problem. They eradicate species indiscriminately, causing helpful garden co-habitants to disappear along with the harmful ones. The fact still remains that not all insects are unwanted insects.

Pesticides also have an effect on local bird populations. Birds eat the insects, which have ingested the pesticides. Because the pesticide is an indiscriminate poison, the bird is targeted as well. Furthermore, if the birds do not immediately disappear, their eggshells become thinner and thinner and often break when parent birds sit on the eggs.

* Garden Club Meeting Schedule Change*

The June Garden Club Meeting will be on the second Saturday of the month. The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. on **Saturday, June 13th**. Please mark your calendar for the change!

REMINDER Please call and RSVP for the next garden meeting! It makes the food we serve and the give always much easier to put together. Thank you so much for your consideration.

With no insects and no birds those predators which live off of the birds disappear too, causing a huge disruption in the local ecosystem.

Another simple method of pest control for a small garden is handpicking. Many slugs and hornworms can be handpicked off of plants with great success. Drop unwanted insects into a dish of soapy water to kill them. Certain moths and bugs can be knocked out of trees with a stick. Allow them to fall onto a large piece of cloth so that they can be gathered and, later submerged in to the soap solution.

Did you know....Apples float because 25% of their volume is air.

Beneficial insects will control the bad insects. Ladybugs and green lacewings are considered beneficial because they are the good guys who are on the hunt for the bad guys that are feeding on your plants.



Certain varieties of plants themselves are pesticides. Planting tobacco around your vegetable garden is an excellent way to discourage slugs and aphids. Marigold and nasturtium keep the Colorado potato beetle, white flies, tomato hornworm, and aphids off of many plants. Mints and catmints control ants, cabbage moths, and flea beetles.

Always buy local transplants to avoid bringing non-native insects into your garden. Add mulch and other simple barriers around your crops and check your garden regularly. Healthy plants are naturally more resistant to predators- just like having a strong immune system.

If your preventative measures do not work, there are many natural and organic plant sprays that work. A mixture of Petroleum oil and water sprayed on a plant is a natural pesticide. Many oils, shells and plant extracts can also be used as safe, effective, natural pesticides.

GARDEN CLUB SPECIALS - July

30% off to garden club members only

Wall décor -limit one

Dramm watering wands- limit one

Ornamental grasses (gallon) limit three

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