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Article



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GARDEN PEST CONTROL FOR VEGETABLES

Abstract: IPM (Integrated Pest Management) is a method used to reduce insect pests in gardens. It combines traditional techniques with modern methods, such as chemical and botanical treatments. Gardeners must learn the life cycles and habits of pests and choose the best solution to address the issue. IPM is an effective and environmentally responsible approach that focuses on prevention, observation, and control. It was initially created for commercial farmers to combat the high costs of synthetic pesticides. IPM is a system that combines with the seasons in a vegetable garden, not a single control. To avoid issues, gardeners should maintain a healthy environment, use plant-resistant species, plan their gardens carefully, use trap crops, encourage beneficial bugs, water frequently, remove and discard infected plants, and mulch the area. If the issue persists, use moderate remedies, capture pests using lures, sticky bands, or diversion crops, and remove diseased or infested plants before they grow.

Key words: pests, garden, control, vegetables, fundamental, combined, problem.

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Introduction

IPM, or integrated pest management, is a widely used technique for reducing insect pests that devour the crops in your garden. The integrated component of IPM combines tried-and-true techniques with more modern deterrents including chemical and botanical treatments. Learning the life cycles and habits of the insect pests is the first step. Good gardeners are familiar with bugs. The second step is to pick the solution that will solve the issue in the garden the best. This strategy can help you boost your yield and satisfaction from the food you raise, combined with a few fundamental excellent gardening techniques. It is impossible to completely exclude nature from your garden. The best a gardener can hope for is to operate

within the natural order, which is much simpler to sustain than to reestablish. Knowing when and why a problem is likely to emerge, taking action to prevent the problem from occurring in the first place, monitoring changes, and adopting low-hazard, affordable control methods when necessary are all components of IPM.

Using common sense and forethought in your garden to prevent the majority of issues and to identify and eliminate those that do arise as soon as possible is known as integrated pest management. IPM is "an effective and environmentally responsible approach to pest management that relies on a variety of common-sense practices," according to the EPA. Principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

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Fig. 1. Photo Credit: Lynn Bunting / Getty

IPM was initially created for commercial farmers in reaction to the high expenses of using synthetic pesticides on both the environment and the economy. IPM can be used to efficiently combat pests in vegetable gardens without the excessive use of synthetic pesticides because home gardeners have accepted its ideas. IPM is a process or system that melds with the cycle of the seasons in a vegetable garden, not a single control. Pests and issues in the garden come and go. What gardeners should be aware

of with IPM is: Prevention and observation Examining Control. What can you do to avoid issues from occurring Maintain a healthy garden and use species that are appropriate for your location. Plant resistant types based on the common pests and diseases in your region. Plan your garden carefully by interplanting veggies to contain potential problems and staking plants to keep them off the ground and dry. Use trap crops and row coverings to keep pests out of your garden. Encourage benevolent bugs.



Fig. 2. Stink Bug Apple Damage

Water the garden frequently after it has been established to prevent drought stress on the plants. Remove and discard unhealthy or infected plants, mulch the area to prevent soil and germs from splashing onto the plants. What can you do to halt it before more harm is done? Start with the most moderate remedy first if the issue won't go away on its own. Garden pests can be captured using lures, sticky bands, or diversion crops, which helps control pest numbers and track how serious the issue is getting. It is simplest to remove hands if you start early. Before the infestation has a chance to grow, remove the diseased or infested plant. You can keep an eye out for insect egg masses on the undersides of leaves and squash or get rid of the eggs right once. Many insects,

especially those engaged in mating, move slowly, so you can knock them off plants and into a jar of soapy water.

Most people have seen a stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*), whether it was on crops or creeping around inside of homes. They are 3/4" long, six-legged, and have a triangular or shield-shaped body. These mottled grayish-brown bugs are most notable for the sickening odor that emanates from their thorax when disturbed or crushed. Have you ever wondered, though, what exactly happened to these lovely, widespread, and devastating creatures?

These bugs, one of the most adaptable pests in Pennsylvania, can spend the winter hiding out in piles of wood, under shrubbery, or even inside your cozy

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home. They migrate outside as soon as the weather warms up to mate, feed, and destroy your harvest all at once.

The female deposits clusters of 150 eggs, which can be yellow, brown, white, or pink depending on the age of the nymphs inside, on plant leaves, tree branches, or homes. The insects are flightless in their

nymph stage, but during the season, many stages of breeding can take place, meaning their population grows dramatically as crops approach maturity. Here is a field guide on stink bugs that shows their life cycle, species diversity, and eating preferences. The most common species of stink bugs, which are not local to the area, are brown marmorated ones.

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