

CAN YOU DIG IT!



Those Little Buggers

The best defense against pests and diseases is a healthy plant. We do not advocate using poisons in the garden, even “organic” ones. There are many ecological solutions to minimize the damage pests can cause in your garden, and maximize the health of your plants!

Remember a healthy plant needs

1. Healthy, fertile soil
2. Proper spacing
3. Adequate water
4. Appropriate amounts of sunlight for the type of plant

If all these are taken care of – your plant stands a good chance of being pest and disease free!

Watch out for these top pests

Pick them or wash them off your plants with water when you see them in your garden: aphids, slugs and cabbage worms.



Slugs

What about slugs?

There are many different ways people try to trap and kill slugs – please don't use Slug Killer chemicals; they can harm other creatures too. Keep your garden free of piles of wood, and other piles of debris where slugs love to hide.

An easy trick to try is leaving piles of weeds in the paths or at the corner of your garden for a few days after you weed. Slugs love to break down weak or dying plant matter (that is why they love your compost pile, which is a great place for you to leave them!). Slugs will be attracted to the shade under these piles of weeds and will happily snack on the leaves of most weeds after they have been pulled. Often this discourages them from eating your new seedlings.



Aphids



Cabbage worms



CAN YOU DIG IT!



Those Little Buggers

The best defense against pests and diseases is a healthy plant. We do not advocate using poisons in the garden, even "organic" ones. There are many ecological solutions to minimize the damage pests can cause in your garden, and maximize the health of your plants!

Know your friends!

Ladybugs, lacewings, tiny wasps, large black ground beetles, spiders, centipedes, and bees are all your friends in the garden.

They pollinate your plants and eat pests like aphids and slug eggs.

Learn to recognize their larvae as well as sometimes the larvae are even more beneficial than the adults!



Ladybugs

Plant flowers

Lots of beneficial insects help to keep harmful insects away, and beneficial insects need pollen and nectar to survive. Some good flowers to plant are Calendula, Nasturtiums, White Alyssum, and Anise Hyssop. Perennial herbs like Mint, Oregano and Thyme also support beneficial insects.

Black Ground Beetles



Bees



White Alyssum



Calendula



Flowering Oregano



Lacewings



Nasturtium