

Garden Pests and Problems: Insects in Your Garden

Chances are that you are going to find insects on the plants you are growing. It is very important to learn about the insects you find on your plants. Many of the insects in your garden may be the “good guys” and you will want to keep them in your garden.



SO WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU FIND INSECTS ON YOUR PLANTS?

Let’s pretend that you’ve found an insect in your garden. We will go step-by-step to find out what to do.

1. Look at the insect on your plant very carefully. Write down everything you see. Answer these questions about your insect.

What color, size, and shape is the insect? _____

What kind of plant was the insect on? _____

Were the insects on all of the plants or just a few? _____

How many of these insects did you see? A few? A lot? _____

Do you see sucking or chewing damage on the plants? _____

If you cannot find damage, that may be because the insect is not a pest. It may even be a helpful garden friend.

2. Now it is your job to identify your insect. **Draw** a sketch or **write** a description of the insect.
3. Go to the library and look for books on gardening or garden insects, You can also ask someone you know who is a gardener, your teacher, or a Master Gardener volunteer. Other resources are Extension Insect Fact Sheets and insect information on the Internet.

Did you find your insect? What kind is it? _____

4. If the insect is a pest ask your teacher or Master Gardener volunteer how to get rid of the insects. It could be as simple as picking the bugs off your plants and throwing them in the garbage, or bringing ladybugs to your garden to eat the pest insects up! There are often simple ways to get rid of insect pests in your garden without using insecticides (chemicals that kill insects).

**NEVER SPRAY INSECTICIDES WITHOUT FIRST GETTING HELP FROM
AN ADULT!**