

## Garden Pests and Problems: How to Prevent Plant Disease in Your Garden

Here are several things you can do to prevent plant diseases in your garden:

If you know that your plant has a disease it is often best to **throw** the plant in the garbage. **Do not** put the diseased plant in your compost pile because you do not want the disease to spread to your other plants.

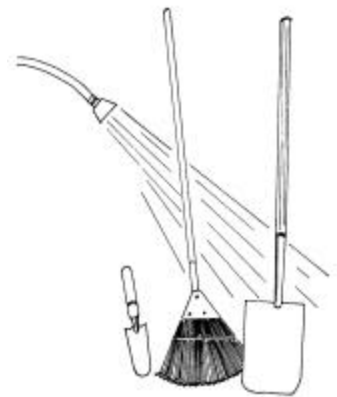
Some insects carry plant diseases as they move from plant to plant, causing the disease to spread from one plant to another. This is another reason why it is important to **remove** insects from your garden.

**Keep your garden clean!** **Pick up** or **rake up** old leaves that have fallen to the ground, **cut off** any dead branches on a plant, **remove** old flowers after they bloom, and **pull** any weeds out of the garden. By keeping your garden clean, you are actually removing diseases from your garden.

Keep your clippers and other garden tools **clean** so that you do not spread disease from one plant to the next with dirty tools.

Keep plants healthy. Make sure plants are given the **right amount of space** so they get plenty of air and light.

Plant the same kind of plants (tomatoes, for example) in different areas of your garden instead of next to each other. This way, if a disease is present, it won't spread to the whole row and kill all the plants.



When watering, it is best to **water early** in the day so the plants will have time to dry off before it gets cool. Fungal diseases usually like cool, moist conditions. Also, it is best not to handle plants when they are wet, since diseases will spread on your hands to other plants. Another good rule of thumb is to **water at the base** of the plant whenever possible. This prevents water from touching the leaves at all.

Have you already done some of these things in your garden? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, list them here: \_\_\_\_\_

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