

What's bugging your plants? Common pests and what to do about them.

Pest	Symptoms	Controls
Aphids	Curled or yellow leaves, sticky honeydew on twigs or leaves, general weakness in plant	Natural Pyrethrin Concentrate
Caterpillars (cutworms, cabbage worms, Tomato Hornworms, etc.)	Chewed leaves; cutworms fell young seedlings	Handpick or use Thuricide Caterpillar Control (Bt). Also Natural Pyrethrin Concentrate.
Flea Beetles	Small holes all over leaves, tiny insects jump off when you disturb leaves; vegetables (tomatoes, eggplant, potatoes, spinach) are common targets	Triple Action Neem Oil, Natural Pyrethrin Concentrate.
Leafminers	Tunnels in leaves	Remove and destroy damaged leaves as soon as they appear. Conserve Naturalyte
Mites, Spider Mites	Speckled yellowish spots progressing to yellow, bronze, and/or curled leaves; fine webs between leaves and stems,; small specks visible on webs or on leaf undersides	Keep plants well watered to prevent them. Remove chickweed and other host plants. Spray with strong stream of water. Insecticides including Natural Pyrethrin Concentrate.
Slugs and snails	Large portions of leaves and flowers chewed (damage generally done at night); shiny trails on soil and plants	Conserve Naturalyte
Whiteflies	Clouds of tiny white insects fly up from foliage when disturbed; plants look generally unhealthy	Triple Action Neem Oil and Natural Pyrethrin Concentrate.

Source: *Gardener's Desk Reference*, Anne Halpin, 1996 ISBN 0-02-860397-4