



# GROW YOUR OWN FOOD

## PESTS AND DISEASES

---

### WHAT IS A GARDEN PEST?

Any form of animal, insect or spider which is doing irreparable damage to your plants.

### WHAT IS A GARDEN DISEASE?

A virus or a bacterial or fungal issue.

### ARE ALL BUGS BAD?

No, definitely not. Many insects are beneficial to plants – many act as pollinators or eat the bad insects. Always work out if the problem is big enough to need treatment.

### HOW CAN I CONTROL PESTS AND DISEASES IN MY GARDEN?

The best way to avoid major problems is to maintain your garden as near as possible to the optimum conditions for growth and plant health (see fact sheet: Healthy soil).

If you do experience pests or diseases in your garden, follow these steps:

#### Step 1

Identify the problem (keep in mind that some pests are most active during the day while others do their damage at night; and some pests live in the soil and others on the plants themselves).

#### Step 2

If you are unable to identify the problem, collect a sample of the infected plant or pest and take it to your nursery professional for identification.

#### How to collect a sample

Please use a clear glass jar with a sealable lid. This is to avoid the pest or disease being released in the nursery (once the problem has been identified, please take the sample home and dispose of it).

### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE AVAILABLE?

Pest and disease treatments are available as chemical or organic compounds. There is also a wide range of home remedies you can make and apply. Your local nursery professional can advise you on the best product for your situation.



### TICKNER'S TIP

Michael Tickner, Adv Cert Hort (read Michael's profile at [www.chw.net.au](http://www.chw.net.au))

"Put sawdust or ash around seedlings to deter snails and slugs."

If you have any questions about pests and diseases, ask your nursery professional for advice.

---

[chw.net.au/gyof](http://chw.net.au/gyof)