

KEEPING THE BALANCE

Organic pest control

When choosing a method to address insect problems select the one which is likely to have the least negative impact on the whole growing environment in your garden. Just as with your own well-being, prevention is the place to start. If a problem develops follow the steps from left to right (from most benign to most intensive) to re-establish your garden's balance. The more you do to maintain a healthy balance in your garden the less likely you will be to experience a pest infestation that will do significant damage.

Prevention

Cultural practices:

- Careful garden observation
- Beneficial insect habitat
 - cover crops
 - good bug seed blends
- Good garden hygiene
- Companion planting with repellent or trap plants

Plant health:

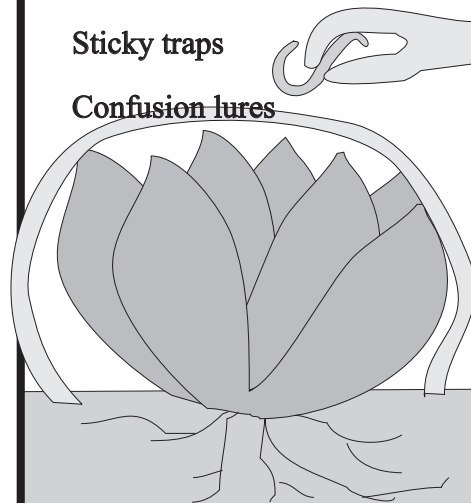
- Slow release sources of necessary nutrients
- Adequate, consistent water availability
- Careful plant selection
- Mixed and timed planting
- Crop rotation

Soil health:

- High organic matter content
- Organic nutrient sources
- Reduced tilling

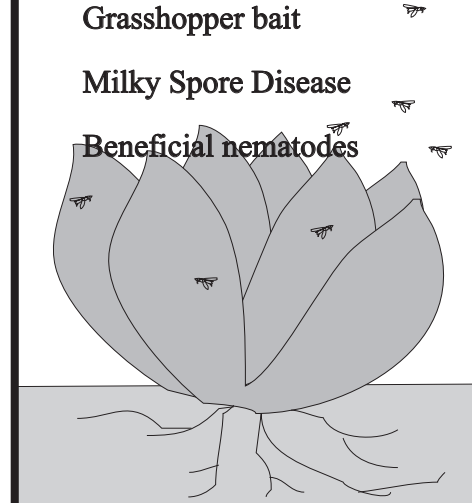
Mechanical

- Handpicking
- Row covers
- Water sprays
- Sticky traps
- Confusion lures



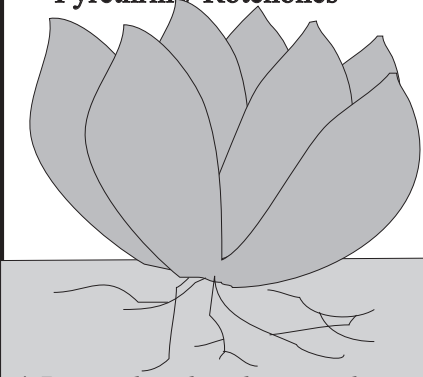
Beneficial/ Biological

- Bt (bacillus thuringiensis)
- Biological fungicides
- Grasshopper bait
- Milky Spore Disease
- Beneficial nematodes



Mineral/Botanical Insecticides and Fungicides*

- Diatomaceous Earth
- Insecticidal soaps and oils
- Neem
- Pyrethrins/ Rotenones



** Remember that these products may be harmful to people, animals and beneficials. Use only when necessary. Read and follow label directions carefully.*