COMMON SENSE HOME

PEST FREE GARDENING

Natural, DIY, and Sustainable Solutions to Garden Pests

INCLUDES:

Companion Planting • Beneficial Insects
Natural Deterrents & Traps • Pest Barriers
Working with Larger Pest Predators
Making Plants "Pest Proof"

LAURIE NEVERMAN

Pest Free Gardening

Natural, DIY, and Sustainable Solutions to Garden Pests

By Laurie Neverman

To learn more about Practical Solutions for Resilient and Abundant Living,

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Introduction

Like weeds, pests cause problems in the garden when they get out of control. The question we need to ask is WHY they get out of control.

If we believe the pesticide industry, they get out of control because we're not using enough poison on our foods. The problem with their logic is that, like weeds, the pests are adapting to the poisons. Each year, farmers (and gardeners) often end up using more poison for the same levels of "control". It's a never ending cycle.

What if we look at the problem from a different perspective?

I believe that insect "pests" are not the enemy; they are nature's cleanup crew. Pests show up when your plants are stressed. Pests can also get out of control when an environment is out of balance, and there are not enough predators to eat the pests.

> "Worldwide pesticide production increased at a rate of about 11% per year, from 0.2 million tons in the 1950s to more than 5 million tons by 2000. Three billion kilograms of pesticides are used worldwide every year, while only 1% of total pesticides are effectively used to control insect pests on target plants. The large amounts of remaining pesticides penetrate or reach non-target plants and environmental media."
> *-source "Agriculture Development, Pesticide Application and Its Impact on the Environment" https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7908628/*

With over 50 years of gardening experience, I've seen the results of healthier plants and balanced ecosystems. We still occasionally see some pest insects show up, but damage is minimal. When there is a problem, I can usually identify the stress point (such as

drought conditions or poor soil in a new garden bed), and work to address it. I know that the same insects that overran my early gardens are still around from talking to neighbors, but our garden chugs along without serious issues.

Insects have been around for hundreds of millions of years, so it's not likely that they'll be disappearing any time soon. I think it's time that we stop "waging war" and start using a more holistic approach to keeping our gardens healthy and pest free.

A Two Stage Approach to Pest Management

Initially, we use control strategies that directly impact the pests, such as:

- Companion plantings
- Natural deterrents & traps
- Encouraging beneficial insects
- Working with larger pest eaters, wild and domestic
- Barriers to keep pests away

Long term, as we improve soil and plant health, insect pest problems largely disappear. The healthier your plants are, the more resistant they are to pests and disease.

Know Your "Enemies"

Some of the most common garden pests include:

Aphids – small, soft bodied sucking insects, often green in color, sometimes tended by ants. These sucking insects leave plants looked wilted.

Cutworms – these grey brown worms hide in the soil and cut off plants at ground level. By the time you spot cutworm damage, it's often too late for the plants. You'll find your seedlings lying limp on the soil surface, with just a nubbin of stem sticking out of the ground. Note: if this happens, dig around in the soil next to the plant. You may be able to spot the culprit and kill it.

Squash bugs – grey brown shield shaped insects that lay clusters of orange-yellow eggs on squash leaves. The nymphs (immature bugs) start out pale green and turn grey as they get closer to maturity. These bugs (both the nymphs and the adults) have an odor like fruit loops when they are smashed.

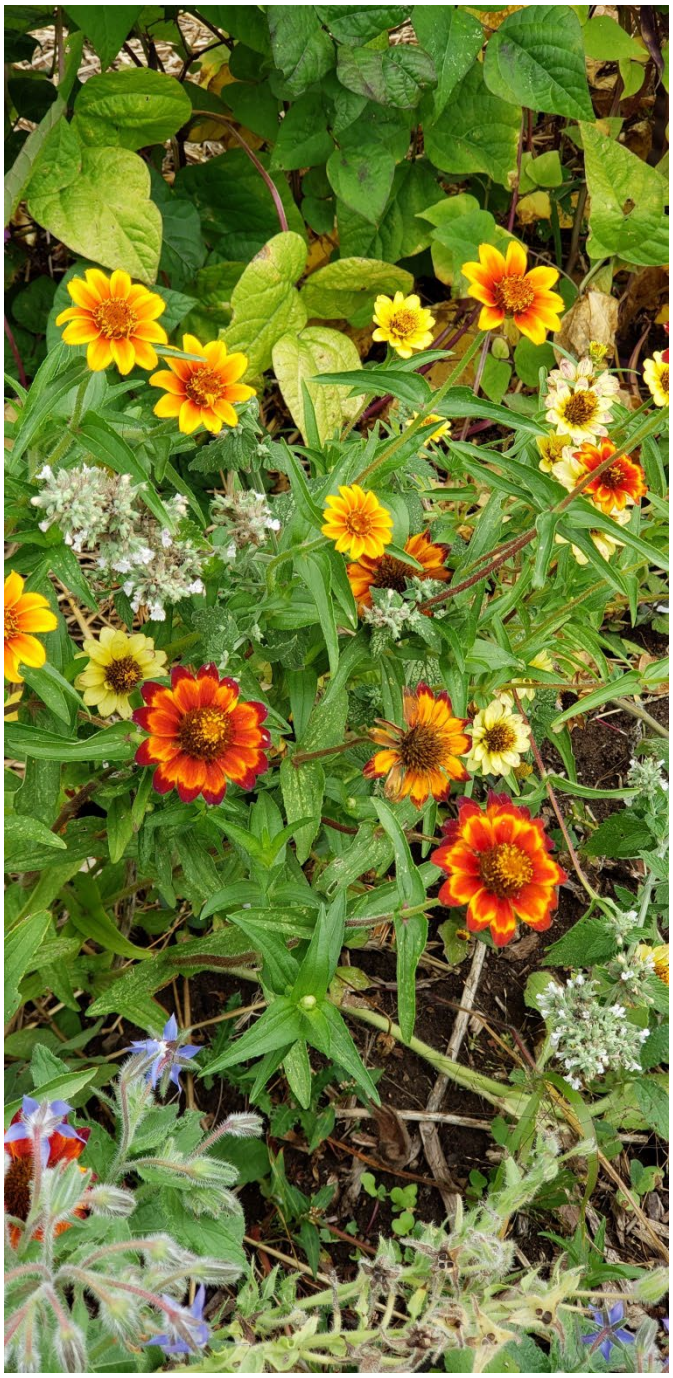
Colorado potato beetles – yellow and brown striped round beetles with fat, dull orange larvae. The adults lay clusters of orange-yellow eggs on the undersides of leaves, similar in appearance to squash bug eggs.



Cabbage worms these fat, green worms blend into the foliage, and are often found along the spine of leaves. The worms are the larvae of cabbage white butterflies.


Companion Planting the Easy Way

Here's my super simple tip for companion planting – put smelly herbs and flowers all over your garden.



Then, apply common sense, and experiment, and find out what works for your growing conditions.

Think about growth habits – use tall plants or trellised plants to shade shorter ones that can't stand the heat. Use low growing plants as living mulch (but make sure to avoid overcrowding).

Strike a balance between keeping a crop concentrated enough for easy harvest, and growing other plants mixed in to repel pests. In the photo at right, I have calendula and borage near pole beans.

If different plants tend to struggle with the same pests or diseases, don't plant them near each other. For instance, peas and cucumbers may get powdery mildew in humid

conditions, and both tomatoes and potatoes can be hit by blight. Avoid planting these crops right next to each other.

Companion planting guides generally recommend avoiding planting beans or peas and onions near each other. Some people mix them without problems; others find that both crops do poorly mixed together.

What's going on? The answer may be in the rhizosphere, the soil right next to the plant roots that is impacted by the chemicals secreted by the roots.

Beans and peas partner with nitrogen producing bacteria to fix nitrogen in the soil. Onion family plants may produce naturally antibacterial substances from their roots. Under the right conditions, the onions might knock out the nitrogen producing bacteria.

I plant my onions near the edge of the bean patch, and haven't had any troubles, but my neighbor mixed the two and both failed to thrive.

Flowers are Good Companions for Almost Everything

I love the look of sweet alyssum and lobelia, and they do well in my garden. They are low growing, and can be tucked just about anywhere as a ground cover. Alyssum, dill, cilantro, parsley, and yarrow also help attract parasitizing wasps, which feed on caterpillars like tomato hornworms.

Nasturtiums always have a place in my vegetable garden for their beauty, and they repel aphids, bean beetles and squash bugs. They can act as a trap crop to lure blackflies away from fava beans, and cabbage butterflies away from brassicas.

Borage free ranges all over my garden. The bees love it, and it deters tomato worms and boosts strawberry and squash growth. Borage is particularly good for honeybees, as the flowers produce a continuous supply of nectar while they are in bloom.

Marigolds, garlic, and chives deter Japanese beetles and Mexican bean beetles. Marigolds may also stimulate vegetable growth and deter pests such as aphids, potato bugs, squash bugs, and bean beetles.

Volunteer cosmos, calendula, and chamomile pop up all over the garden. I thin them as needed – the bees and butterflies enjoy them all. Think about providing blossoms from the last spring frost until after fall frost to keep the bees fed.

Some of my favorites:

- **Nasturtiums** repel aphids, bean beetles, and squash bugs.
- **Borage** deters tomato worms.
- **Marigolds** deter pests such as aphids, potato bugs, squash bugs, and bean beetles.
- **Alyssum, dill, cilantro, parsley, and yarrow** also help attract parasitizing wasps, which feed on caterpillars like tomato hornworms.
- **Basil** repels flies, mosquitoes, aphids, and spider mites.

Don't Forget the Herbs!

I tuck herbs all over the garden, too. Basil repels flies, mosquitoes, aphids, and spider mites. Yarrow can enhance the flavor and scent of some other plants, so I like to work with the herbs and the yarrow together.

Rosemary and sage deter carrot flies, and rosemary also slows down bean beetles and cabbage moths.

Mint is great for deterring aphids, ants, and flea beetles, but it also spreads rapidly and is difficult to eliminate. If you want to use it in your veggie garden, keep it in a sunken pot so it doesn't take over.

Catnip, which is in the mint family, also repels insect pests and attracts pollinators. Catnip has a clumping root habit and is easier to control. It may attract cats, which helps to keep down rodent populations, but the cats sometimes dig in garden beds or roll in the catnip. I keep my catnip plants along the edges of garden beds.

Eco-Friendly Solutions for Your Garden

Note: Anything that kills pest insects may also kill beneficial insects, so use sprays, powders, and traps with caution.

Some of my preferred options:

- **Soap spray** – Mix 1 teaspoon of castile soap in a quart of water. Pour into a spray bottle and spray directly on soft-bodied insects like aphids or mites.

- **DE (diatomaceous earth) or crushed eggshells** sprinkled on the plants or ground. This works well against potato beetle larva, cabbage worms, slugs, and snails.
- **Bt (Bacillus thuringiensis)** for caterpillars, such as cabbage worms.
- **Slug traps** – place a flat piece of wood near slug activity and check under it in the morning for slugs. You can also use beer traps (a small container with beer sunk into the soil), but be aware that beer traps may attract larger animals like raccoons or skunks that are curious and want a drink.

Insects are normally most vulnerable in their larval form. Once mature, they get harder to kill. Egg clusters are also somewhat resistant to sprays, especially as the outer covering hardens. Freshly laid eggs are more likely to be damaged by sprays, but smashing the eggs or dumping them into soapy water is the most effective.

Sprays and powders generally work best in the cool morning, before insects become more active. They need to be reapplied after rainfall. Avoid working with powders on windy days, and don't inhale the powders, especially diatomaceous earth. It will dry out and irritate your mucus membranes just like it causes damage to the insects.

Morning is also the best time for hand picking insects and knocking them into a container of soapy water. We used this method early on for squash bugs, cucumber beetles, and potato beetles.

Put Beneficial Insects to Work

We can invite insects that hunt down other insects to our garden by making them by adding the right habitat.

Elements to include:

- **Flowering herbs** with small flowers, like dill, cilantro, fennel, thyme, mint, and basil
- **Native wildflowers** like yarrow, goldenrod, asters, coneflowers, and milkweed
- **Composite flowers** like sunflowers and zinnias
- **Add mulch, rocks, or logs** to provide cover for ground-dwelling predators like beetles.
- **Shallow basin of water** so they can safely drink

With water features, make sure that you keep the water moving, or swap out water regularly. Mosquito larvae breed in stagnant water in just a few days.

Beneficial insects will often use host plants during their larval stage before they begin hunting other insects. To attract pollinators, work to keep blooming plants available in your yard from early spring to late fall. If it's warm enough for bees to be active, they'll want to gather nectar and pollen.

Some common beneficial insects include:

- **Lady beetles** – lady bug larva eat aphids by the dozens
- **Green lacewings** – the larvae attack soft-bodied insects
- **Syrphid flies (hoverflies)** – their larvae kill aphids, caterpillars, thrips and beetles
- **Ground beetles** – eat nematodes, caterpillars, slugs, silverfish, weevils and thrips
- **Praying Mantis** – knock out grasshoppers, moths, beetles and more
- **Fireflies** hunt soft bodied invertebrates like slugs, snails and mites
- **Mealybug destroyers** wipe out aphids and other small, soft insects
- **Predatory mites** kill harmful mites, such as spider mites
- **Pirate bugs** kill spider mites, insect eggs and small caterpillars
- **Spiders** – these equal opportunity predators take out anything that hits their webs
- **Soldier beetles** – hunt Mexican bean beetles and Colorado potato beetles
- **Soldier bugs (predatory stink bugs)** – eat caterpillars and other larvae
- **Tachinid flies** – parasitize Japanese beetles, corn borers, squash bugs and many other pests
- **Braconid and Ichneumonid Wasps** – lay eggs on tomato hornworms

Bringing in the Bigger Bug Eaters

Put domesticated and wild bug eaters to work, such as:

- Frogs and Toads
- Snakes
- Birds
- Bats
- Ducks
- Chickens
- Turkeys and other fowl

Sometimes you can have pest eaters in the garden while it's growing; sometimes you can rotate them through before or after the growing season, or keep them near the garden.

Frogs, toads and snakes will shelter in mulch or around stones. We have ponds by our home, but even small water features like bird baths will help pest predators feel more welcome.

Adding nest boxes sized for bug eating songbirds are native to your area can help boost their numbers. Including shrubs and trees that provide perches and cover in your landscaping plan is also helpful.

Here’s a list of songbirds known for eating garden pests, helping control insect populations naturally:

1. Bluebirds

- Eastern Bluebird
- Western Bluebird
- Mountain Bluebird

  Prey: Caterpillars, grasshoppers, beetles, and other insects.

2. Wrens

- House Wren
- Carolina Wren
- Bewick's Wren

  Prey: Spiders, beetles, caterpillars, and larvae.

3. Chickadees

- Black-capped Chickadee
- Carolina Chickadee

  Prey: Aphids, scale insects, and caterpillars.

4. Nuthatches

- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Red-breasted Nuthatch

  Prey: Beetles, borers, ants, and weevils.

5. Warblers

- Yellow Warbler
- Black-and-White Warbler

  Prey: Aphids, caterpillars, and small insects.

6. Sparrows

- Song Sparrow
- Chipping Sparrow

  Prey: Beetles, grasshoppers, and other small insects.

7. Robins

Prey: Caterpillars, grubs, beetles, and earthworms.

8. Orioles

- Baltimore Oriole
- Orchard Oriole

  Prey: Beetles, caterpillars, and aphids.

9. Thrushes

- Wood Thrush
- Hermit Thrush

  Prey: Beetles, ants, and grubs.

10. Flycatchers

- Eastern Phoebe
- Great Crested Flycatcher

  Prey: Mosquitoes, flies, and moths.

11. Swallows

- Barn Swallow
- Tree Swallow

  Prey: Flying insects such as mosquitoes and flies.

12. Tanagers

- Scarlet Tanager
- Summer Tanager

  Prey: Caterpillars, beetles, and wasps.

13. Mockingbirds

Prey: Grasshoppers, beetles, and other insects.

In addition to birdhouses and water sources, naturalizing part of the landscape with native plants so they have some less disturbed areas for hunting is also good.

Bats are voracious hunters, consuming moths, beetles, mosquitoes and many other insects.

How to Attract Bats to Your Garden:

- Bat Houses: Install bat boxes in your yard to provide a safe roosting spot.
- Native Plants: Grow night-blooming flowers to attract nocturnal insects.
- Water Sources: Provide a small pond or water feature for bats to drink from.

We allow our ducks in the garden once crops are established, but only let chickens in before or after harvest for cleanup duty. With the chickens, we extend their main run over nearby garden beds during winter. We have a moveable chicken tractor that allows us to rotate a few chickens in specific beds, to work them over before we plant.

We also have a seasonal run for the chickens in the east orchard. They don't bother the trees, but we had to protect shrubs inside the run with additional fencing. The chickens went after the gooseberry plants and not only ate the berries, but the leaves. They can do a lot of damage very quickly.

Our ducks are Indian runner ducks, which are well known for controlling pests. After hatching several generations here on the homestead, they've "winterized" and loss some of their thin, upright profile, but are still more upright than other breeds. Anconas, Khaki Campbells, Welsh Harlequins, magpies, Moscovies (technically not ducks) and various bantam breeds are also good foragers.

As a smaller, lighter duck breed, runner ducks are less likely to smash and damage plants while moving around. Because they don't have the weight to maintain of the bigger duck breeds, less supplementary feed is needed. They are not extremely cold tolerant, but there are few bugs for them to find in winter. Temps below 20°F will have the crew inside most of the day.

We ordered our crew from the hatchery, and picked four ladies and gent to have a stable flock. There were four different varieties of runners in our crew, so it was easy to tell them apart at a glance. As the flock has grown, it's a little tougher to tell them apart, but we still can.

Keep in mind that the size of your flock should be matched to the size of your garden. Our crew of five did a good job covering over an acre of garden and orchards. We had to rehome some ducks last summer because the flock grew to over 20 birds when three duck ladies decided to nest. It is possible to have too much of a good thing.

For a small garden, a pair of ducks can get the job done without being lonely or getting into too much mischief. Don't get a single duck. They are social birds.

We trained our ducks to work with us in the garden and bond to us. I know not everyone has time for this, but if you can make time, they can be a joy.

Most ducks are skittish. This helps keep them safe from predators, but makes them challenging to handle. Our crew gets petted and/or handled each night as part of their bedtime routine. We also talk to them and sing to them, so they know our voices.

Initially, we took our first group out with us when we were working in the garden and greenhouse. The more recent hatches of ducks follow the lead of the older ducks.

When we want the ducks to come, we use a special whistle. In the garden, this signals that there are bugs to eat. At bedtime, we use the whistle to call them inside. Then they get a treat of freeze dried mealworms as a reward.

Tips for Working with Ducks in the Garden

Ducks don't dig up the garden like chickens, but there are a few things you need to keep in mind when you use duck pest control.

Ducks love leafy greens and some seedlings. Our crew's favorites are lettuce and Swiss chard, but the will happily nibble a variety of small greens. They also enjoyed sampling onion and pea seedlings, and baby brassicas. Once plants are larger and more established, a little nibbling won't hurt, but for small plants, it can wipe them out.

I suggest keeping the ducks away from these plants (peas, onions, cabbage family vegetables) until the plants are at least half grown. With salad greens, it's probably best to keep a fence or other barrier between the duckies and the greens.

We also trellis our tomatoes to keep most of the fruit out of easy reach of the ducks. Tomatoes typically ripen from the bottom up, so we protect the plants when they are shorter, then let the ducks have access later in the season.

Not only will they happily eat your salad, duckies poop – frequently. It's best to avoid that near foods that are eaten raw.

If you're nervous about having any duck poop directly in the garden, create a duck run around the garden. Slugs are attracted to duck poop. The ducks patrol the perimeter of the garden, and the slugs are drawn out of the garden towards the duck poop – where they are munched by the ducks.

You'll keep the ducks away from temptation, and avoid the risk of duck poo on your raw veggies. You won't get the same level of pest control that you'd have with them directly in the garden, but it should still help.

Ducks love to twiddle. If your ground is muddy or you have standing water in the garden, ducks will revel in it. They love burrowing their bills into mud, and flushing water through their bills. This is great for clearing mosquito larvae and other pests, but it does make a mess.

We Love Our Duckies – But They're Not for Everyone

Our ducks have given us many hours of joy simply watching them, and done wonders for reducing the slug and bug populations. That said, they're not for everyone. In a tiny urban yard, their urge to play in the water and mud may make too much mess for the area.

They can also be LOUD. Drakes (the males) talk in a quiet, raspy quack. The ladies also engage in polite chatter, but sometimes they "let 'er fly" with round after round of brassy, sassy quacks. Here, we don't have close neighbors, so it's not an issue. In a suburban or urban setting, it might be a problem.

Barriers to Keep Pests Away

Sometimes you can physically block pests from accessing plants. Some options:

1. Row Covers

- **Description**: Lightweight, breathable fabric placed over plants to act as a physical barrier.
- **Effective Against**: Aphids, cabbage moths, squash bugs, and leaf miners.
- **Tips**: Secure the edges with soil or weights to prevent pests from sneaking in. Use fine-mesh versions for smaller insects.

2. Netting

- **Description**: Fine mesh or nylon netting placed over plants or fruit trees.
- **Effective Against**: Birds, fruit flies, caterpillars, and moths.
- **Tips**: Ensure the netting is tight and doesn't allow insects to crawl underneath.

3. Mulch Barriers

- **Description**: Apply organic mulch or plastic sheeting around the base of plants.
- **Effective Against**: Soil-dwelling pests like root maggots, fungus gnats, and some beetles.
- **Tips**: Use reflective or silver-colored mulch to deter aphids and whiteflies.

4. Collars Around Plants

- **Description**: Cylinders made of cardboard, plastic, or metal placed around the base of plants.

- **Effective Against**: Cutworms and root borers.
- **Tips**: Ensure the collar is buried slightly into the soil and extends a few inches above ground.

5. Sticky Traps and Tapes

- **Description**: Brightly colored traps coated with a sticky substance to catch flying insects.
- **Effective Against**: Whiteflies, aphids, and fungus gnats.
- **Tips**: Replace traps regularly and place them near pest-prone plants.

6. Copper Tape or Mesh

- **Description**: Copper strips placed around raised beds or pots.
- **Effective Against**: Slugs and snails.
- **Tips**: Ensure the copper is a complete, continuous barrier.

7. Floating Covers

- **Description**: Similar to row covers but left to "float" directly on top of plants as they grow.
- **Effective Against**: Flea beetles, cabbage worms, and leafhoppers.
- **Tips**: Use lightweight materials to avoid damaging plants.

8. Trap Crops as Living Barriers

- **Description**: Plant decoy plants around your main crops to attract pests away.
- **Effective Against**: Aphids, squash bugs, and flea beetles.

- **Tips**: Use plants like nasturtiums, radishes, or marigolds as trap crops.

9. Water or Oil Moats

- **Description**: Create a shallow trench around raised beds and fill it with water or a light layer of oil.
- **Effective Against**: Ants, crawling insects, and certain beetles.
- **Tips**: Keep it clean to prevent algae growth or mosquito breeding.

Get barriers in place early, ideally before pests arrive. Check inside barriers periodically, in case pests were hiding in the soil and got trapped inside the barrier.

Brix Chart and Pest Control

Brix is a measure of dissolved sugars. A higher the brix level is in the leaf sap indicates healthier photosynthesis, and a healthier plant. As Brix levels decrease, you get more pest problems.

Nutrient Deficiencies Trigger Pest Attacks

When I'm dealing with garden pests, the first nutrient I start with is Calcium. Bio-available calcium triggers many reactions in the soil and with the plants to boost the health of both.

Calcium helps with:

- Cell Wall Integrity
- Structural Support
- Signaling pest attacks

- Activating defense genes
- Callose deposition

Some calcium sources include:

- Calcitic lime (ground limestone, calcium carbonate)
- Dolomitic lime (ag lime or magnesium limestone)
- Gypsum (calcium sulfate)
- Crushed eggshells
- Bone meal (this also contains phosphorus)
- Oyster shell flour (I use the dust from the bottom of the bag of oyster shells I get for my laying hens in the garden.)

The fastest treatment is foliar feeds. I've included a simple recipe below.

Basic Calcium Booster Vinegar Infusion

Toast eggshells in toaster oven or oven for 5-10 minutes. It's best to prep dry materials and store those, and then infuse as needed.

Fill container with roughly 10-15% crushed shells. Add apple cider vinegar, filling to about an inch from the top to allow room for bubbles. Set in bowl to catch any spills.

Place cloth over jar and store in a well-ventilated area out of direct sunlight for one to 2 weeks.

Strain out the liquid. You can reuse the shells 3-5 times.

Store the decanted liquid in a glass jar with a lid. Date and label it, and store away from sunlight. Compost any remaining fragments after you have made several extractions. They don't attract most scavengers because they have been cooked and processed.

TO USE: Dilute vinegar extractions 1:500 up to 1:1000 with good water. (Rain water is ideal, avoid chlorinated water.) **Use 1 tablespoon vinegar extraction to 4 gallons (15 liters) of water, or a scant teaspoon per gallon.**

Use as a foliar feed or a drench. These work well in combination with other amendments such as fermented plant juices. I also top dress stressed plants with compost or well-rotted manure, and may use other foliar feeds such as fish hydrolysate or liquid kelp.

Aim to maintain appropriate soil moisture and temperature levels. Organic mulch such as straw or wood chips can be a big help with this.

Pay attention to air flow and sunlight levels. Overcrowding creates stress, but closely spaced plants help eliminate weeds because they have no room to grow.

Soil testing, at home or through a service, can help identify nutrient issues and other potential soil problems, but so do the pests and weeds that show up. As we nourish the soil, so the soil helps plants to nourish us – and not fall prey to pests and disease.

The “Pest Proof” Garden

Even if you have a lot of pest damage, don’t give up. This poor pepper plant (left) was decimated by flea beetles and slugs in our early days of gardening. I saved the plant with eggshells and coffee grounds (right).

There are many, many different ways to disrupt garden pests. Use your imagination, and consider what materials you have on hand. Now I’m stocked on different products, but you can also improvise, like I did in these photos. Slugs don’t like the sharp edges of eggshells, and I think the flea beetles were confused by the smell of the coffee grounds.

Knocking bugs into a container of soapy water during early morning garden inspections is a good option for spot treatment while you work on long term control.

This is a shot of my youngest chasing cabbage butterflies near one of our early gardens. I used to pay the boys a bounty

for every pest bug they collected when they were little. They got math practice (easy to catch bugs were five cents, hard to catch ones were 25 cents) and exercise.

I hope you've found this guide helpful. Remember, **pests show up and do the most damage when plants are stressed**. The healthier we can keep our soil and gardens, the fewer pest problems we have.

Even if you end up with some damage on your produce, that doesn't mean you need to toss it out. Trim off the damaged bits if needed, and use it promptly if it's ready to harvest. I've found that it's not uncommon for fruit, such as strawberries, that have a bird peck, are sweeter than undamaged fruit nearby.

Some sources suggest that the plant sends more nutrients to the damaged spots to help shore up defenses. Whatever the mechanism, as long as it isn't spoiled, the produce is still safe to use.

Each growing season gives us valuable feedback. When pests appear, they're often pointing us toward something that needs attention—soil structure, mineral balance, watering practices, or plant diversity. Instead of viewing pests as enemies, we can treat them as messengers and use what we observe to guide improvements.

This is where the **Pest Defense Kit** really shines. The video gives you an overview of strategies and helps you understand *why* pests show up. This companion guide ties those ideas together in written form for easy reference. The quick ID sheets help you identify pests at a glance, and the three-volume pest-specific remedies set gives you targeted, organic strategies when you need them most.

As we learn from each season and continue building healthier soil, our gardens become more balanced, productive, and forgiving. Progress doesn't require perfection—just steady observation, thoughtful adjustments, and a willingness to work with nature instead of against it. Over time, those small improvements add up to a garden that's easier to manage, more abundant, and far more pest-resistant. That's what Resilient Gardening is all about.

Laurie Neverman

Creator, Common Sense Home

Author of Common Sense Preparedness (coming September 2026 from Lyons Press)