



Plants and top problem bugs – quick reference

Which bugs eat which plants and what can I do about them?

-Trap crops are crops that are grown so that the bugs eat them in preference to the crop you wish to grow to fruition

Bug by common name	Main crop /s	Secondary crops	Trap crop	Mechanical or other means of reduction	Organic pesticides or other facts
Slugs and snails	Lettuce, brassicas, strawberries, tomatoes, peppers	Any seedlings	Radish, marigolds	Roofing shingles, copper sheets, diatomaceous earth, crushed egg shells,	Beer or yeast/ sugar water traps (they slide in and drown), corn meal. Frogs and toads, ducks, shrews all eat slugs
Earwigs	Corn (silk), beans, Lettuce, potatoes	Roses, strawberries, zinnias		Bundle of corrugated cardboard or drinking straws, or rolled newspaper – they crawl in and can be taken away	Shallow containers of vegetable oil or soy sauce – they climb in and drown.
Aphids (green, black, white, tan)	Tomatoes, peppers, carrots, brassicas	Roses, nasturtiums, mums and geraniums	Fava (broad) beans, nasturtiums	Row covers, yellow sticky pads, often found on houseplants too. Jet water on plant – it shakes them off. Watch for ants farming them for “honeydew”	Do not over supply nitrogen to plants- it fosters growth that will attract aphids.
Spider mites	Grapes, melons, strawberries	Spruce and conifers		Almost invisible, except for webbing. Blast off with jets of water	Keep garden moist in dry spells.
Mealybugs	Apples, grapes, pears	Hibiscus, indoor citrus, indoor ficus		Found mostly in greenhouses and houseplants, knock off with jet of water.	Do not over supply nitrogen to plants- it fosters growth that will attract mealybug.
Scale	Fruit trees	Beech, birch, boxwood, lilac		Wipe off branches with cotton balls dipped in rubbing alcohol. Crush larger ones. Watch for ants as sign of scale.	Do not over supply nitrogen to plants- it fosters growth that will attract scales.

Beetles	Main crop /s	Secondary crops	Trap crop	Mechanical or other means of reduction	Organic pesticides or other facts
Asparagus beetles	Asparagus			Knock off onto ground where they will be eaten or handpick	
Colorado potato beetle	Potatoes	Tomatoes, eggplants, peppers	Sacrifice a couple of eggplants?	Handpick, floating row covers, straw mulch. rotate crops	Mulch with straw
Japanese beetle	Turf Grass, corn, grapes	Cherry and plum trees, roses, zinnias		Handpick or stop watering grass – eggs and grubs need moisture	
Cucumber beetle	Cucumbers, melons, squash and pumpkins	Beans, beets, corn , potatoes, tomatoes		Yellow sticky pads, row covers. Tansy, marigolds, or catnip are deterrents, plant out cucumbers later in season	Mulch with straw, hay, grass to stop females going into soil to lay eggs
Mexican bean beetle					
Butterfly or moth	Main crop /s	Secondary crops	Trap crop	Mechanical or other means of reduction	Organic pesticides or other facts
Cabbageworm (white butterfly)	All brassicas			Corn meal or rye flour sprinkled on leaves	
Cutworms (grey moth)	Seedlings of beans, brassicas, corn	Sunflowers, tomatoes, cosmos, snapdragons		Surround seedlings with cardboard tubes– toilet paper tubes or paper cups are ideal.	Adult moths are preyed on by bats
Tomato hornworm (grey moth)	Tomatoes , eggplants, Peppers, tomatillos		Nicotiana	Hand pick or attract parasitic wasps	

Brassicas are all the cabbage and cauliflower and kale family.

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