

Summer Pest Survival Cheat Sheet

Summer pests can feel overwhelming, but with the right methods you can protect your plants and still enjoy a bountiful harvest. Use this quick guide to identify, control, and prevent common garden invaders.



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Common Pests You'll See

- *Aphids* – Cluster on tender new growth, sucking sap and leaving sticky honeydew.
- *Squash Bugs* – Attack zucchini, pumpkins, and squash by sucking juices from leaves, causing wilting.
- *Pill Bugs* (Roly-Polies) – Normally decomposers, but will chew seedlings and tender fruits if overpopulated.
- *Whiteflies* – Tiny, fast-moving pests on undersides of leaves; cause yellowing and stunted growth.

Quick Control Methods

- *Aphids* – Use Castile Soap + Neem Oil Spray.
- *Squash Bugs* – Handpick daily; check under leaves for eggs and scrape them off.
- *Pill Bugs* – Mulch lightly; use Garden Safe Snail & Slug Bait.
- *Whiteflies* – Hang yellow sticky traps; spray neem oil every 7–10 days.

Extra Tips: Squash Bug Adult Control

- Handpick and drop adults into soapy water.
- Use a handheld vacuum to collect adults, then dump into soapy water.
- Place boards or shingles near plants; collect bugs hiding underneath in the morning.
- Encourage beneficial predators like tachinid flies, ground beetles, or chickens.
- Apply kaolin clay (Surround) as a barrier spray to make plants less appealing.

Prevention Tips

- Rotate crops each season.
- Avoid overwatering (damp soil = pest heaven).
- Encourage beneficial insects (ladybugs, lacewings).
- Use floating row covers for young seedlings.

Wisdom to Remember

“Gardening isn’t about eliminating every pest, it’s about keeping balance. A few chewed leaves won’t stop your harvest.”

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