











Tips on Keeping a Pest and Pathogen Free Community GARDEN PLOT

- Keep your plot weed free
- Remove diseased and dead plant debris which can harbor fungal and bacterial pathogens. Put infected plant material in the waste bin instead of the compost. Sanitize potting trays, materials, and tools that came in contact with the diseased plant with soapy water. Diseases can spread quickly between plants!
- Avoid touching nightshades (tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, eggplants), beans, or cucurbits (squash, zucchini, cucumbers) when wet to prevent disease transfer from plant to plant
- If you are a smoker, always wash your hands between smoking and touching your plants, as you can transmit Tobacco Mosaic Virus to your nightshades
- Provide the right moisture conditions and nutrient supply to your plants. Healthy plants are much less likely to be affected by pathogens and pests while stressed plants are a target for pest and pathogen attack.
- Learn about the most common pests and diseases affecting your crops – See the reference guides below.
- Ask questions! If you don't know about a plant problem, look it up or ask a fellow gardener. Keeping tabs on your garden keeps problems in check. Help each other out with garden tasks!

REFERENCE GUIDE TO GARDEN PESTS:

Insect name	Photos	Crops affected	Methods
Mexican Bean Beetle		Beans	Squish at any stage.
Colorado Potato Beetle		Nightshades (potatoes and eggplant especially)	Squish eggs; Knock of plant into bucket and dispose
Flea Beetle		Brassicas (broccoli, kale, cauliflower...)	Row cover crop immediately after planting.
Cucumber Beetle		Cucurbits (cucumbers, summer & winter squashes)	Row cover from planting until flowering; Squish eggs (and beetles while still sleepy/cold)
Squash Bug		Cucurbits	Keep plant debris out of gardens; squish eggs on bottom of leaves, squish bugs! (They smell...)

REFERENCE GUIDE TO GARDEN DISEASES:

Disease	Photo	Characteristics
Early Blight		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -creates a 'bullseye' pattern on older foliage -premature defoliation -fruit/tuber rot -stem lesions
Late Blight		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -lesions on leaves which turn brown and shrivel -spores can be visible as powder surrounding lesions -fruits have dark lesions
Downy Mildew		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -yellow spots forming in leaves, often close to veins which turn brown -fruit is undersize and deformed -kills crop very quickly
Powdery Mildew		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -powdery splotches of white or grey on leaves and stems -easy to identify
Fusarium and Verticillium Wilts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -later infections cause foliage to turn a dull grey-green and wilt, followed by a general yellowing and defoliation -early infections can cause seedling damping- off