

# »Organic pest control«

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Pests are a major problem in farming and these can be controlled organically.

The first thing to think about when controlling pests is the soil because a healthy soil is essential when you want to manage pests effectively. Ensure that you are adding lots of organic manure in the soil and also ensure that you do soil testing at least once a year to know the exact nutrients that are missing in your soil. Chemical fertilizers and pesticides kill beneficial insects in the soil.

## Pest control tips

Keep your garden clean by removing dead leaves, fallen fruits and other things that harbor pests.

Keep your plants healthy by having good soils, water your crops regularly and plant at the right time. These enable plants to be healthy and healthy plants can resist pest better.

Maximizing on the interactions between pests in the garden. When you do not use pesticides, the beneficial organisms help control the pests.

Learn to identify all beneficial insects and their stages of development. The beneficial insects include ladybirds, praying mantis, bees and dragon flies. Stop using pesticides because these kill both the good and the bad insects.

Spend time in your garden everyday to identify pests when they arise.

Do crop rotation and also companion cropping where crops that grow near each other are grown together.

## Common treatment

Do nothing. Observe plants each day because healthy plants can withstand a little bit of pest damage.

Spraying affected plant parts with water repeatedly can help get rid of pests, Rigid collars placed around the shoots of young seedlings help control cut worms.

Remove affected leaves and throw them in the trash.  
Hand picking of the pests can be done early in the morning.  
Garlic spray, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, horticultural spray and neem oil can be used to spray pests.