

Tower Garden Pest Management

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Use these steps to help your customers achieve success!



Find damage or symptoms

Leaf damage, unusual leaf coloring, presence of frass (insect excrement), population of ants, etc.



Identify the pest

Misidentification can lead to unnecessary treatments. Excellent photos are located at this link. <http://www.futuregrowing.com/commfarms.html>

Tower Garden Top Pests:

Aphids White	Cabbage Worms Tomato
Flies Spider	Hornworms Squash
Mites	Beetles



Understand pest's life cycle

Take advantage of weaknesses and use controls to interfere with the pest life cycle.



Determine action threshold

How many pests can be tolerated? This usually involves weighing the cost of treatment vs. the cost of damage caused.



Use appropriate mgt methods

Use of a variety of control methods as outlined on the right side of this page.



Evaluate and record results!

Keep a journal close to your garden. Note date, weather, pests present, controls used, etc.



Share your photos, tips and success!



Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

The use of multiple tactics to keep pest populations off balance and avoid resistance to controls. The least toxic, yet still effective methods are used. IPM is based on managing the pest population, not eradicating it.



Cultural/Mechanical Control

Changing the environment so the needs of the pest are disrupted.

- *Hand picking
- *Use sponges to wipe leaves
- *Spray with water
- *Change temperatures (indoor growing)
- *Screens/Traps



Biological Control

The use of living organisms that are natural predators or parasitoids. Several common examples:

- *Lady Beetles
- *Bacillus thurgensis (Bt)
- *Wasps
- *Wasps



Safe Chemical Control

These sprays can be from organic or botanical sources and still disrupt the chemical processes surrounding the insect. Often derived from plant sources known to be toxic to insects, use caution as these sprays may kill the beneficial insects present as well as the pests.

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| Store Purchased:
Ready to Use (RTU) | Homemade recipes (found online) Including ingredients such as: |
| *Neem Oil | *Ginger *Garlic *Cayenne |
| *Insecticidal Soap | Pepper *Essential oils |
| *Hot pepper wax | |



When in doubt, toss it out!

Another TG benefit. If pests are out of control, remove your plant and start fresh!