



### Garden pests are known for causing damages to:

- Plants
- Trees
- Grass and lawns
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Sheds
- Garden Furniture

Some garden pests can have the potential to cause a threat to your health due to their stings and bites. This can be particularly worrying if you suffer from allergic reactions to insect stings and bites, plus they can be incredibly itchy! Although they don't bite or sting, other garden pests are known for spreading diseases such as salmonella through their urine and feces.

#### POTENTIAL HEALTH RISKS



skin inflammation and skin rashes



respiratory problems and allergic reactions

## Common garden pests

There is a range of different species of animals and insects which can invade your garden. They come in all shapes and sizes and each bring their own unique form of risk to your backyard.



### Ants

- ▶ Different species can have different effects on your garden. Fire ants can cause a nasty sting while carpenter ants can damage wooden structures.
- ▶ Can also be responsible for attacking fruit plants to fulfill their sweet tooth craving.
- ▶ In some cases they have been known to protect aphids from predators in order to ensure a constant supply of honeydew.



### Mosquitoes

- ▶ Use standing water, often found in buckets and ponds, to breed
- ▶ Bite humans
- ▶ Spread diseases such as Malaria and Zika virus



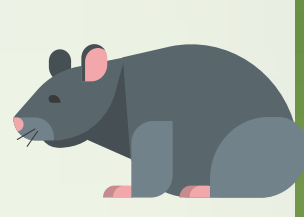
### Flies

- ▶ Use specific areas to feed and breed
- ▶ Can spread diseases such as salmonella if they come into contact with human food
- ▶ Some species can cause painful bites



### Wasps, bees and hornets

- ▶ Build nests underground, in sheds, on trees, and the underside of decking
- ▶ Sting if they feel threatened or if you are too close to their nest
- ▶ Attracted to flowers and fruit



### Rats and mice

- ▶ Consume fruits, vegetables and seeds
- ▶ Gnaw on garden furniture and the wires to outside lights
- ▶ Can damage the lawn by building underground tunnels
- ▶ Beneficial garden insects



#### Also includes:

- ▶ Aphids
- ▶ Termites
- ▶ Slugs and snails

## Beneficial garden pests

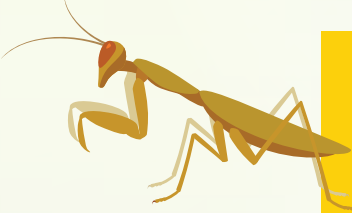
Not all insects in your garden are harmful. Some garden insects are actually beneficial. Their impact on your garden can range from being natural predators to garden pests to helping with pollination.



### Bees, Wasps & Hornets



### Ladybugs and Midges



### Praying Mantis

You can attract beneficial garden insects to your backyard by manually introducing them, or by planting specific plants which attract said insects.

### Insect repelling plants

Companion planting of plants which repel garden pests can help keep a backyard safe



There is a range of options to help control pests in your garden. This includes natural garden pest control options, prevention tips and enlisting the help of a pest control professional.

## Garden pest prevention

To help get rid of pests in your garden there are a few prevention methods you can try to reduce the appeal of your backyard.



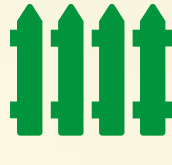
#### Maintain soil health

Ensuring that all vegetation is watered properly and using organic fertilizers will help keep them, and the soil strong and healthy, helping them to withstand pest damage. Removing weak and damaged plants can also assist in your efforts to maintain healthy soil.



#### Clear garden of debris

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#### Barriers

Using barriers made from copper and certain fabrics can be good alternatives to pesticides in some circumstances. Different barriers can be used for different garden pests, by helping to protect plants from pest damage.



#### Remove standing water

Standing water in buckets, trays and flower pots provide biting insects such as mosquitoes with the perfect nesting environment. Water in birdbaths and pet water bowls should also be changed regularly. Removing this element from your garden can help with your prevention efforts.



#### Repair damages

Repairing any damages to your shed and greenhouse will help keep pests away from stored items such as seeds as well as plants and flowers. Regularly inspecting these areas of your garden will help ensure a quick, reactive response to garden pest infestation.



#### Compost

Store compost in a secure location and ensure it is sealed in a container with a tight lid to prevent garden pests. Compost can often provide pests with a great place for harborage. Remove easy access to compost to keep certain garden pests away.



#### Garbage cans

Overflowing with garbage as well as secured with a tight lid will help eliminate potential food sources for many garden pests. This will help make your garden less appealing, as well as reducing the possibility of obtaining a pest problem in your home.

Make sure ponds have a sufficient filtering system, or an agitator, and regularly inspect for mosquito eggs to help control their number.



With these tips and suggestions, it's quite likely that you will be able to enjoy your garden pest-free this summer. If, however, for any reason you find yourself with a pest issue that you cannot fix, be sure to call in the local pest control experts at Western Exterminator.