



# Allotments - pests

Effective strategies to deal with allotment pests:

## 1. Regular monitoring

Check your plants frequently for signs of pests or damage to catch issues early.

## 2. Encourage beneficial insects

Attract natural predators like ladybugs, lacewings, and predatory wasps by planting a variety of flowers and herbs.

## 3. Companion planting

Plant certain species together that deter pests, such as marigolds with vegetables to repel nematodes.

## 4. Row covers

Use lightweight fabric row covers to physically block pests from reaching your plants while allowing light and moisture in.

## 5. Neem Oil

Apply neem oil as a natural pesticide. It disrupts the life cycle of pests without harming beneficial insects when used correctly.

## 6. Insecticidal soap

Use insecticidal soap sprays to target soft-bodied pests like aphids and spider mites. Ensure thorough coverage.

## 7. Hand-picking

For larger pests like slugs or caterpillars, manually remove them from plants and dispose of them.

## 8. Barriers

Use physical barriers like copper tape or diatomaceous earth to deter slugs and snails.

## 9. Proper sanitation

Keep the allotment tidy by removing debris and fallen fruit, which can attract pests.

## 10. Crop rotation

Change the location of your crops each year to disrupt pest life cycles and reduce infestations.

## 11. Plant disease-resistant varieties

Choose varieties known for their resistance to specific pests and diseases.

## 12. Mulching

Use organic mulch to discourage pests while retaining soil moisture and suppressing weeds.

## 13. Spray water

A strong blast of water can dislodge pests like aphids and spider mites from plants.

## 14. Maintain healthy plants

Well-nourished and healthy plants are more resilient against pests, so focus on good soil and care.

## 15. Bird Keeping

Please be aware of the current guidance on bird flu and ensure you are up to date with the changing situation. More information available here; [Bird flu \(avian influenza\): latest situation in England - GOV.UK](#)

By combining these strategies, you can effectively manage and minimize pest issues in your allotment.