

Pests in my Garden: Handy or Harmful?

Ants



If you want to control ants, first try controlling the aphids in your garden, and they will generally opt to move on to a location with a better food source.

You may also try wrapping plant stems with tape and can even coat the tape with a sticky substance so the ants cannot make it up your plants.

Aphids



A daily dose of water applied to plants with visible aphids should eventually rid of these pests. When aphids are knocked off the plant, they cannot climb back up. Nasturtium, garlic and onions are great plants which help to control aphid populations around neighboring plants.

Centipedes



Usually produces more helpful rather than harmful results in your garden as they feed on slugs and other small insects.

Earwigs



These quick little insects may leave little holes in flower petals - also known to damage dahlias and chrysanthemums. On a brighter note, earwigs will feed on other aphids, grubs and insects. Try crumpling up newspaper in a flipped over pot and then relocate the critters you catch.

Green Lacewing



Usually welcomed into gardens by due to their appetite for spider mites, leafhoppers, caterpillars and aphids. Attract these insects with flowers that produce copious amounts of pollen and nectar.

Ladybugs



We love our ladybugs, they help keep garden enemies like aphids at bay! Dill is an excellent attractant for these lucky insects.

Slugs/Snail



Try to relocate slugs/snails to control the population which has made its way into your greenhouse or garden. Another effective option is to line your garden box with copper barrier strips to deter the unwanted company.

Spittlebugs



These bugs, which live in a foamy cocoon, can cause your plant's growth to be stunted as they feed off the sap of leaf stems. The solution can be as simple as rinsing them off with a hose. Make sure the setting is high enough to wash them off them but not so high that it will damage your plants.

Whiteflies



Found more commonly in a greenhouse than outdoors, these very small moth-resembling insects will take flight when disrupted. Try catching them on yellow sticky paper!

For more information check out Steve Whysall's article, [Garden bugs: Friend or Foe](#).