



10 Easy Steps to Prevent Common Garden Diseases

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1. Sanitation!

- Start with a clean planting site, free of last year's crop debris. Debris from the previous season's crops may harbor diseases, weeds and insects.



2. Purchase high quality plants and seeds

- Select plants with healthy-looking leaves and strong stems (avoid spindly plants).
- Purchase seeds and transplants only from reputable dealers.
- Avoid collecting seeds from diseased or unhealthy-looking plants (pathogens are often transmitted on or in seed).

3. Rotate crops

- Grow your crops in different parts of the garden each year. Be sure not to rotate crops with those in the same plant family (e.g., tomatoes, eggplants, and peppers; cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower).

4. Avoid planting too early

- Plant growth may be slowed due to cold soil temperatures (slow-growing plants are more susceptible to attack by disease-causing organisms and insect pests).

Plants that remain wet throughout the night are more likely to develop disease problems.

5. Mulch

- Mulches prevent soil that may contain disease-causing organisms from splashing onto the plants, and also helps retain soil moisture.

6. Avoid overcrowding the plants

- Crowding creates a moist, humid environment that is favorable for disease development.

7. Water early in the day

- Plants that remain wet throughout the night are more likely to develop disease problems.

8. Remove diseased leaves, flowers, and fruit as soon as they are noticed

- Diseases are easily spread by wind and rain from diseased plant tissues. Destroy the diseased material.
DO NOT COMPOST.

9. Fertilize to promote growth, but avoid over-fertilization, especially with nitrogen

- Young, succulent growth is susceptible to attack by many fungi and bacteria.

10. Try to maintain insect damage to a minimum

- Insect wounds provide entry sites for disease-causing organisms.

Updated February 2018

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