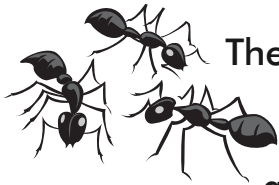


# Managing Pests Organically

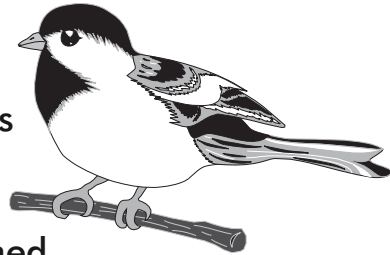
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**B**iodiversity is the norm in nature. Insects are attracted to injured plants. Healthy plants on fertile soil with adequate water are toxic to insects as they can tolerate attacks better than plants suffering from nutrient deficiency, water stress, crowding or improper light levels.



The goal is to create a stable system in your garden where there are no huge population explosions of pests, but rather a diverse ecosystem where pests are regulated naturally. No pesticides or herbicides, including organic-acceptable ones, that kill all bugs including the pest and beneficial insects are used.

**CULTURAL CONTROLS** are used in this garden to make the environment less hospitable to the pests or by interfering with the pest's life cycle. These are healthy soil, proper moisture, mulching, sanitation, timed planting, crop rotation, companion planting and crop rotation.



**PHYSICAL CONTROLS** such as netting to keep the birds from eating the peas, timing (sow seeds and transplants so vegetables develop when pest populations are low), food traps and circular mats around cabbages, removing pests by handpicking.

Observe the herbs and flowers planted in this garden—mint, mums, asters, dill, marigolds, nasturtium, sweet pea, calendula, basil, rosemary, garlic, horseradish, yarrow, sage, parsley, cilantro, and thyme that are planted as companions, insect repellents and nectar-producing plants to deter pests and attract good bugs.



Sunflowers attract birds. A bat box is close to the garden to attract bats that eat insect pests. Note our bird feeder close to the garden. A small bird such as the chickadee eats a copious number of insects.

