



10 Easy Steps to Prevent Common Garden Diseases

- 1. Practice good sanitation.** Start with a clean planting site, free of last year's crop debris. Debris from the previous season's crops may harbor diseases and insects
- 2. Purchase high quality plants and seeds.** Select plants with healthy-looking leaves and strong stems. Avoid collecting seeds from your own plants - fungal diseases 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. Do not plant too early.** Plant growth may be slowed by cold soil temperatures. Slow-growing plants are more susceptible to attack by disease-causing organisms and insect pests.
- 5. Mulch.** Mulches prevent soil that may contain disease-causing organisms from splashing onto the plants; mulches also help to retain soil moisture and suppress weeds..
- 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.
- 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 at a minimum.** Insect wounds provide entry sites for disease-causing organisms.

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