

Make Your Garden Pesticide Free



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Increasing concern over the impact of pesticides on the environment and human health and recent headlines about biodiversity loss and global insect declines mean that **gardeners are uniquely placed to be hugely important conservationists.**

Even tiny actions like allowing daisies to grow in your lawn can make a difference to struggling pollinator populations - but not when we use pesticides.

So what alternatives are there for gardeners who want to deal with an influx of aphids or too many slugs and snails eating young plants before they have a chance to grow?

Natural alternatives to pesticides do exist and we've rounded up some of the best ones for you

Our top pesticide alternative is nature's own solution; a hungry predator who will do the work of eating aphids, slugs or snails without harming the environment or ecosystem.

Ladybird larvae, for example, will decimate aphid populations and ducks are working wonders for rice farmers [Dumping pesticides, using ducks instead.](#)

Whilst ducks may not work for the average gardener, ladybirds are very low maintenance and you don't have to wait for them to arrive, you can increase your ladybird populations by purchasing the larvae and releasing them into the garden.

Other natural solutions include spraying plants with diy soap solutions that kill the pests without using harmful chemicals, or making plant teas and using nature's own natural insecticides to ward off unwanted pests, both neem oil and tomato leaves work really well for this. Neem is a natural insecticide (non toxic to bees) and tomatoes belong to the nightshade family

which produce alkaloids that are toxic to aphids, amongst others.

To make tomato leaf tea

- Soak 2 cups of chopped tomato leaves in 2 cups of water overnight.
- Strain the liquid the next day discarding the leaves.
- Add 2 more cups of water to the solution and transfer to a spray bottle.

How to use it:

Spray affected plants, as soon as aphids appear. Pay particular attention to stems and the underside of leaves, as well as growing tips. Not only will the tea kill the aphids the tomato scent will attract other natural insect predators looking for prey.

[Natural homemade insecticides](#)

[Gardening without pesticides](#)

Guide to pesticide free gardening

Bees need dandelions

Pest Control: Safe, Non-Toxic Methods & Solutions

Slugs and snails - POD easy edible gardening

