

TIPS for the ORGANIC and NATURAL Gardener....

Controlling Insects in the Home Garden with Effective Intercropping Techniques

APHIDS

High aphid populations can be a result of too much Nitrogen fertilizer, excessive pruning of fruit trees (which causes succulent sucker growth), or extreme use of pesticides which kill off aphid predators and parasitoids. Aphids overwinter as eggs on bark or ground litter, emerging in the Spring. They are a serious threat to most young plants, although they can be a problem throughout the growing season. They can be particularly bad during a cold Spring, when they multiply faster than their predators!

- Interplant your garden with chives, garlic, mints, onions and/or petunias to repel aphids.
- Interplant your fruit orchards with anise, coriander, nasturtiums, pennyroyal, and/or petunias for aphid control.
- Intercrop collards with beans to achieve more wasp parasites, which can reduce aphid populations by 40% more than planting alone.
- Cover-crop your garden/orchard areas with rye, vetch and/or clover to provide a safe haven for aphid predators!
- Attract chickadees, nuthatches, purple finches, warblers, chipping sparrows and toads to your garden areas...they LOVE aphids!
- Make sure there is good air circulation around vulnerable crops. Stagnant air increases aphid populations!

CABBAGE LOOPERS

Plant marigolds! However, harvested heads may be smaller...there is no scientific explanation of this phenomenon, but folks consistently report this happening. Interplant your garden with garlic, hot peppers, hyssop, onions, rosemary, sage, tansy and/or thyme to help reduce cabbage looper populations.

COLORADO POTATO BEETLE

Interplant catnip, coriander and/or tansy with your potatoes! The volatiles emitted by the tansy and catnip are repellent to the beetles.

Also, intercropping basil to mask the smell of potatoes may reduce beetle populations.

Robins are the biggest predator of potato beetles!

CUCUMER BEETLES

Interplant your cucumbers with broccoli, catnip, corn and/or radishes to reduce cucumber beetles.

SQUASH VINE BORERS