

# 10 Natural Ways to Control Pests in Your Vegetable Garden



In the quest for sustainability and eco-friendliness, gardeners are turning to natural methods to keep their backyard vegetable gardens thriving while maintaining the ecological balance. With the growing awareness of the harmful effects of synthetic pesticides, natural pest control has become a trending and vital aspect of home gardening. Here are 10 natural ways to control pests, ensuring your vegetables remain healthy and your garden flourishes.

## 1. Companion Planting



Companion planting is more than just a gardening trend; it's a strategic approach that involves planting certain plants together to naturally repel pests. For example, marigolds emit a scent that deters nematodes and tomato hornworms, making them perfect companions for tomatoes. Similarly, basil can repel flies and mosquitoes, enhancing the growth of plants like tomatoes and peppers. This method not only maximizes space but also promotes biodiversity, leading to a healthier garden ecosystem.

## **2. Encouraging Beneficial Insects**



Your garden can thrive by inviting beneficial insects that prey on harmful pests. Ladybugs, lacewings, and praying mantises are natural predators of aphids, mites, and other garden pests. Planting flowers such as daisies, sunflowers, and alyssum can attract these beneficial insects, providing a natural defense mechanism against pests and reducing the need for chemical interventions.

### **3. Neem Oil**



Extracted from the seeds of the neem tree, neem oil is a powerful, natural insecticide that disrupts the life cycle of pests without harming beneficial insects when used correctly. It's effective against a wide range of pests, including aphids, mites, and whiteflies. Applying a diluted neem oil solution to your plants can protect them from pest infestations and fungal diseases, making it a staple in the natural gardener's toolkit.

## **4. Diatomaceous Earth**



Diatomaceous earth is a non-toxic powder made from fossilized algae. When sprinkled around plants, its microscopic sharp edges deter and eventually kill crawling pests like slugs and beetles without causing harm to humans or beneficial garden inhabitants. It's an effective, food-grade barrier against pests, but it must be reapplied after watering or rain.

## **5. Floating Row Covers**



Floating row covers made of lightweight fabric can be draped over plants, providing a physical barrier against pests like cabbage moths and carrot flies. These covers allow light and water to reach the plants while keeping pests out, promoting a healthy growth environment. They are handy for young plants and can be removed once the plants are strong enough to withstand pests.

## **6. Homemade Natural Sprays**



Creating your own natural pest repellents from common household ingredients can be both practical and environmentally friendly. A spray made from garlic, onion, or cayenne pepper mixed with water can deter a variety of pests. These natural concoctions can be sprayed directly onto plants to fend off pests without the risk of chemical buildup in the soil or on your vegetables.

## **7. Crop Rotation**



Rotating your crops annually is a simple yet effective strategy to prevent pests from becoming established in your garden. Many pests are plant-specific, so changing the location of crops each year can disrupt their life cycles and reduce their numbers. This practice also promotes soil health, reducing the likelihood of disease.

## **8. Hand Picking**





Sometimes, the simplest methods are the most effective. Regularly inspecting your plants and hand-picking off visible pests can be a straightforward way to control infestations. This method is time-consuming but ensures that beneficial insects are not harmed, maintaining the natural balance in your garden.

## **9. Soap Sprays**



Insecticidal soaps, made from a mild soap solution, can effectively control soft-bodied pests like aphids, spider mites, and whiteflies. They work by breaking down the pests' outer coating, leading to dehydration. These sprays are safe for the garden and can be applied directly to the pests without harming the plants.

## **10. Mulching**



Mulching not only helps retain soil moisture and regulate temperature but also can deter certain pests. Cedar bark mulch, for example, is known for its ability to repel ants and moths. A layer of mulch can also prevent weeds, reducing competition and the hiding spots for garden pests.

**You Can Control Pests the Natural Way!**



Adopting natural pest control methods is not only better for the environment but also for your health and the health of your garden. By implementing these strategies, you can enjoy a bountiful harvest from your backyard vegetable garden, secure in the knowledge that you're cultivating in harmony with nature. The transition to natural pest control is a step toward sustainable gardening practices that benefit not only our gardens but also the broader ecosystem.

#### **Read More**

- [Gardening Supplies You Can Get at Dollar Tree](#)
- [Top 6 Gardening Knee Pads on Amazon](#)

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## **5 Fun Ways to Use Yarn in the Garden**



I am a crafter. Mostly, I crochet, although I also knit and weave and collage and enjoy some other crafty activities. As a result of my craft, I have a lot of yarn in my home. Most of it I will use to crochet, of course. However, over the years, I've found that yarn can be used in myriad ways. So, I got to thinking, how could I use yarn in the garden? Here are five ways that the frugal material of yarn can add both beauty and function to your gardening:

## 1. Self-Watering Plants With Yarn

Don't spend a lot of money on an automatic drip system to water your plants. Instead, use yarn. [Real Simple](#) explains that you can place a jar of water near your potted plants. Insert one end of yarn into the jar and the other deep into the soil of the plant. When the plant needs water, it will actually draw what it needs through the yarn from the jar. Amazing, right?!

## 2. Make Wool Compost

There are many different fiber types when it comes to craft yarn. If you craft with wool, then you have a lot more options

in the garden. It's a natural material that will break down in the environment. It's safe for your land and your plants. For example, you can actually make a [wool compost](#) that works as well as peat does for mulching.

### 3. Make a Yarn Trellis

There are many different yarn trellis patterns and tutorials. Whether you make a simple yarn grid or a complex crochet trellis, you can use this in your garden to grow your plants vertically. It's one of the most affordable ways to build up and it's pretty as well.

### 4. Decorating the Garden with Yarn

Speaking of pretty, decor is one of the most popular ways to use your yarn in the garden. You can [yarnbomb](#) your plants and trees, knit or crochet ornaments to hang in the garden or create an entire little yarn fairy garden. Yarn adds even more color to your garden.

Note that you can also use yarn to label your plants. Assign each plant a specific color of yarn. Tie that color to a plant stake to place in the ground near the seeds for that plant. This is a great way to both decorate your garden with yarn and also remember what you planted where before it starts to grow each season!

### 5. Plant Holders

You can decorate any of your plant holders, indoor or out, using yarn. You can crochet or macrame hanging baskets to hold pots that you want to keep up off of the floor. Even if you don't have any specific craft skills, you can wrap yarn around containers or pots of any size to decorate them.

## BONUS: Crafting in the Garden

Although I didn't include it in the main list, I can't neglect to mention the most obvious way that you can enjoy yarn in your garden. You can take your yarn out into the garden and craft there! Knitting and crochet offer so many health benefits. So does nature. When you combine the two by crafting in the garden, you reap more benefits of each/

### Read More:

- [DIY Squash Trellis Under \\$10](#)
- [Frugal Container Gardening](#)
- [7 Financial Benefits of Backyard Gardening](#)

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## 7 Financial Benefits of Backyard Gardening





7 FINANCIAL BENEFITS OF

# Backyard Gardening

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You probably started gardening as a hobby. However, you might have always wondered if you could use gardening to save money. You certainly can. In fact, you can actually garden to make



money if you're savvy about it. The financial benefits of backyard gardening go beyond just saving at the grocery store, too! Here are seven ways you can save/make money with your backyard garden:

## 1. Save Money on Food

Obviously, the first money-saving thing most people think about is eating from their garden. That's definitely one of the financial benefits of backyard gardening. After all, there are so many vegetables and herbs that you can grow yourself at a cost that's significantly lower than what you'd pay for the same quantity at the grocery store. [Earth Easy](#) shares that some of the most cost-effective vegetables to grow include lettuce, bell peppers, squash, tomatoes, and garlic.

## 2. Sell Your Extras

Many people grow more than they can ever possibly eat in one season. If you're skilled enough to create such a bounty, then you can definitely profit off of it. You might set up a stand at the local farmer's market. Perhaps you just want to set up a table in your own front yard on the weekends. Or maybe you just want to advertise on social media what you're selling during your harvest period. Whatever method you choose, this is a great way to supply others in your area with fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, and even flowers while also making some money.

Remember that you can also harvest your seeds and cuttings for sale to other backyard gardeners. Also, consider bartering with those gardeners. Trading what you have for what you need means that you don't need to spend that extra money at the grocery store.

### **3. Plants as Gifts**

You don't have to spend money on extra gifts when you have plenty growing right in your own backyard. Head back there and pick a bouquet of fresh flowers. Make a basket of fruits and vegetables. Or collect herbs in a little envelope. These are special, personal, useful gifts that don't cost you anything extra since you're gardening anyway.

### **4. The Money You Save on Entertainment and Exercise**

[Debt Helper](#) points out that working in the garden is exercise. Therefore, you save on gym memberships and exercise equipment. Similarly, many people enjoy garden time as a form of entertainment. Cancel your streaming television services and get outside to watch the plants grow instead. These financial benefits of backyard gardening might not be obvious. However, if done intentionally, you can save a lot of money by considering all your garden provides.

### **5. Health Benefits of Gardening**

Gardening offers so many benefits. The exercise you get from it is just one of those benefits. You also get Vitamin D, reduce stress, and derive many other benefits from your garden. Improving your physical and mental health is good for how you feel. It's also good for your bank account. You'll save money by avoiding doctors, medication, and the downtime of ill health.

## 6. Rent Out Your Garden

[US News](#) notes that you can make extra money by renting out your garden. If you have a beautiful space, then you might rent it out for events. Photographers might like to photograph your garden and the items in it. Even with a small garden, you might rent it out for picnics, wine nights, or craft sessions. Try using Airbnb Experiences to advertise unique opportunities like this for extra income.

## 7. Offer Gardening Classes

You've already learned a lot in your own backyard garden. Therefore, you possess knowledge that you can share with others. Many people would be willing to pay for your knowledge. Host classes in your garden.

### Read More:

- [Profitable Greenhouse Crops: Money in Your Pocket](#)
- [Brice Capital Helped Me Launch My Produce Business](#)
- [4 Smart Garden Devices That Save Time and Money](#)