

How to Keep Bugs Off Fruit Trees (Without Pesticides)

While either planting a full orchard or just a few fruit trees in your yard, you're going to want the most out of your harvest. As trees [require fertilizer](#) to flourish, this can, unfortunately, draw common garden pests. Though some bugs are attracted to leaves, others may infect the root system or the entire plant.

Most people may think that harsh chemical repellents are necessary for saving your fruit trees. However, using chemical pesticides to protect your fruit trees can cause damage to both humans and wildlife. For instance, humans who come in contact with these chemicals can experience respiratory issues while pollinators may die. To keep your trees healthy, bees, butterflies, and other pollinators need pesticide-free areas to land.

Luckily, many natural alternatives exist to keep harmful bugs from destroying your fruit trees without harming our chief pollinators.

How to Get Rid of the Bugs on Your Plants

If you've planted your fruit trees and they've had time to grow, you may notice local pests have already made their home there. Without the use of chemical pesticides, it can seem impossible to remove the pest. However, there are several **natural pest control** options for your **garden** that can [protect your fruit trees](#).

How to Save Plants Already Infested with Bugs

Many insects are natural parasites for your fruit trees. These may include:

- **Aphids** – prey on fruit trees but are commonly found on apple trees. They normally infect limbs and leaves in the winter. However, they can also be found feeding on root systems.
- **Stink bugs** – primarily herbivores, stink bugs are invasive insects that feed on fruits and leaves. If they appear in your garden, you may see discoloration in leaves or blemishing found on your fruits.

- [Tent caterpillars](#) – this caterpillar species primarily feed on plant leaves and greenery. They may be found in large swarms on branches, rapidly destroying your fruit tree's natural foliage.

Natural Pest Control for Gardens

A spray solution of soap and warm water can be used directly on trees and leaves to kill aphids. Soap solutions often make plants taste unpleasant to other insects, like caterpillars. Adding a little vinegar to your soap and water mixture can help remove stink bug infections. However, be careful with the amount of vinegar you use on your fruit trees.

The taste of soap and vinegar can repel caterpillars, but if you find the infestation persists, you may use a sticky mixture of molasses, soap, and warm water. This will immobilize the insects and keep them from feeding on your plants.

How to Keep Bugs Off Fruit Trees

There are many home remedies, sprays, and solutions that can protect your garden from bugs and [other pests](#). For instance, the smell and taste of most vinegar solutions will repel parasitic insects. This can not only work to rid your plants of current infection, but it may also work as a preventative.

How to Prevent Bugs from Attacking Your Plants in the Future

Many chemical sprays like herbicides and pesticides can be harmful to both humans and wildlife. Though they may rid your garden of natural pests, the fruit produced may be harmful to consume.

Common pesticides like Paraquat have been linked to [fatal disease](#) in the United States, Europe, Asia, and Canada. Though this pesticide is one of two still used in the U.S., many countries have begun banning its use. Most organophosphate pesticides have been directly linked to death, comas, and convulsions.

Not only can these toxic chemicals harm humans, but they also discourage pollinators from visiting your fruit trees. Like pests, pesticides can kill chief pollinators like bees, wasps, butterflies. Luckily, there are **natural pest control** options **for** your **garden**. Most of these include very strong smells that pests try to avoid.

[Citrus](#) fruits, like lemons and oranges, can be a great natural repellent **to keep bugs off fruit trees**. These fruits' solutions are often combined with citronella to create an unpleasant aroma for local pests.

Additionally, you may use a solution of garlic oil, soap, and warm water, which you can spray directly on your trees. You can make garlic oil by roasting several cloves of garlic in vegetable oil. You may also smash the garlic and add it directly to the oil with a few drops of dish soap.

Another natural irritant for pests can include anything containing capsaicin. Add about 2 tablespoons of red chili flakes to a mixture of warm water, dish soap, and vegetable oil. You can spray this directly on areas you wish to keep pest-free.

Happy Gardening!

Now that you've effectively protected your garden from insects, check out our other insect and disease management resources or simplify the plant-care process with one of Citrus.com's soil and care kits!

Product Description

The Goji Berry Plant is a self-pollinating bush that can produce healthy fruit year-round. As a result, these plants are often unaffected by common diseases and naturally repels most pests. A Goji Berry Plant is perfect for those new to organic farming because they do not require pesticides to ward off parasites, insects, and other wildlife.

The Goji Berries are often used in home remedies because they boost the immune system with natural vitamins and antioxidants. This berry is also commonly found in diets that seek to naturally reduce inflammation and protect against disease.

Most believe the Goji Berry was first discovered in China around 2800 B.C.E. during the rule of Shen Nung, China's first emperor. Since Shen Nung's reign, these berries have been consumed in hopes of a natural way to achieve better health and longer life.

As a superfood, goji berries are still used to treat common ailments and to promote digestive health. This plant is also resilient to extreme temperatures and can withstand low temperatures of up to negative 10 degrees Fahrenheit (or negative 23.33 degrees Celsius).

As they are easily adaptable, goji berry plants do well in dry environments and like a lot of sun. To achieve healthier plants, use soil that drains well and does not retain excess moisture.

Grown from cuttings of goji berry plants already producing fruit, these plants will give fruit much faster than seed grown plants. So, not only can you have delicious berries year-round, but you will also get your first harvest several years earlier than most.