

# Watering Best Practices for Preventing Garden Pests!

Many pests and diseases on plants can be traced back to incorrect watering and fertilizing practices. Integrated Pest Management, or IPM, is any approach that uses the least toxic, effective method to solve pest problems. Using IPM and safer, more sustainable pest management practices is a practical way to keep pests in check while keeping pesticides out of our homes and environment.

**Your garden can be beautiful and healthy with IPM!**

## Over-watering

Over-watering can lead to pest and disease outbreaks, like mosquitoes and fungi.

## Under-watering

Under-watering can lead to weak plants unable to resist pest attacks.

Water deeply and infrequently to keep plants dry and free of disease.

Adjust irrigation settings to match your plants needs throughout the year.

Set sprinkler timers for the correct amount of time and water early in the morning.

Place drip lines to put water right where it's needed and avoid the damage caused by overhead watering. The result is less water for unwanted weeds, better soil quality, and less run-off into the storm drain.

# Fertilizing Best Practices for Preventing Garden Pests!

Use IPM for happy, healthy plants that can better outcompete weeds and resist pest and disease outbreaks.

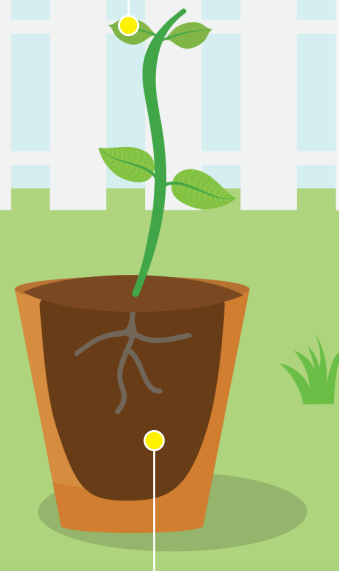
## Over-fertilizing

Over-fertilizing can make plants more susceptible to pests and create unfavorable soil conditions.



## Under-fertilizing

Under-fertilizing can lead to weak, stunted plants that may need the extra nutrients to thrive.



Try improving soil quality with amendments along with proper fertilization. While fertilizers give plants the nutrients they need, amendments give roots the best environment to grow.

Fertilize only when you need to. The general guideline for lawns is four times per year with no more than one pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. Guidelines vary for other plants.