

Pesticides and their effects

For the past 80 years, synthetic chemicals have been used to protect our gardens from disease, pests and weeds.

In private homes, plant protection products, also known as pesticides, are mainly used to control pests such as wild grasses, mosses, parasites and other disease vectors such as rodents, snails and insects.

Although the quantities used by households are minimal, pesticides and their residues are regularly detected in Luxembourg's groundwater. These come from public and private use, not just from agriculture.

Dangers of pesticides

Pesticides are dangerous poisons for people and the environment.

Dangers for humans	Dangers for the environment
Possibility of severe poisoning through inhalation and skin contact.	Usually, non-selective effects, resulting in pests and beneficial animals being affected in the same way.
Potential contact with various toxic substances.	Pollution of neighbouring surfaces by drift or deposits.
Long-term physical damage, developmental and behavioural disorders, possible genetic damage.	Toxic substances or waste may appear in groundwater or surface water.
	Accumulation of pesticides or residues in the food chain. This contributes to the extinction of species.



Beneficial animals stop the proliferation of pests in your garden.

Friends and enemies in the garden

Disadvantages of pesticides

Removing weeds or pests leads to intensive, one-sided colonisation of the spaces that have been freed up by other, unwanted organisms. Commercial products containing glyphosate, generally advertised as harmless, can also cause poisoning and are harmful to the environment.

A single application is enough to upset the natural balance between beneficial animals and pests, to the detriment of beneficial animals.



Weeds are not always a nuisance in the garden. Marigolds and borage sow themselves and help limit growth of other unwanted vegetation.



Alternatives in an organic garden

In a natural garden, animals and plants interact.

Because one-sided cultivation is avoided, the mass proliferation of pests is rare. Should such proliferation still occur, use alternative, less toxic products that leave no by-products in the environment.



If you want to be sure of harvesting only healthy fruit, it is advisable not to use synthetic pesticides in other areas of your garden.

Most pesticides harm not only pests but also other animals and plants. The use of pesticides presents a danger to the user and to all those who unwittingly come into contact with such substances.



To find out more about alternative treatments, consult the following technical information sheets:

- Pest control using beneficial animals
- Fighting fungal infections
- Pest control – insects
- Pest control – snails
- Pest control – voles, muskrats, moles, rats and mice

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