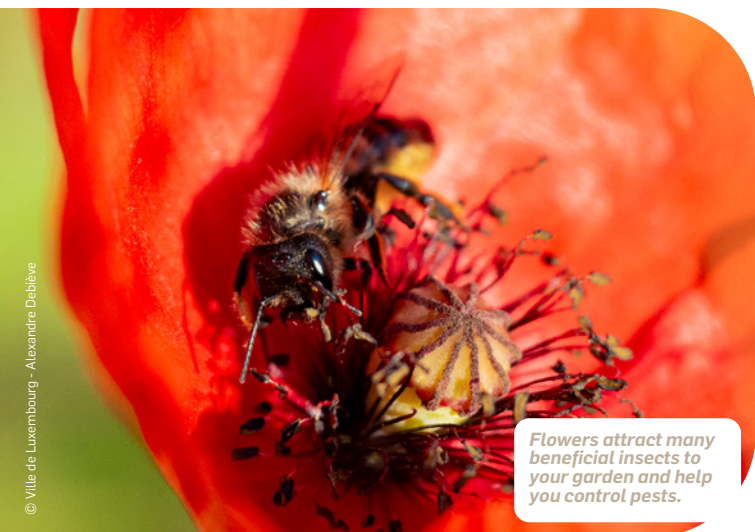


Insect pest control

Differentiate between beneficial and harmful insects. The first are welcome guests in the garden, as they promote pollination, resulting in more abundant flowers and fruit. As for the others, it's best to get rid of them. To protect your health and that of your family, and to protect the environment, avoid using any synthetic insecticides. There are plenty of harmless alternatives.



Flowers attract many beneficial insects to your garden and help you control pests.



Plant mint to repel pests such as flea beetles or cabbage butterflies.



Prevent the proliferation of insect pests by combatting them as early as possible with biological remedies.

Friends and enemies in the garden

Preventive measures

Here are some preventive and deterrent methods:

- Set mechanical traps such as netting, corrugated cardboard banding around trees or glue traps,
- Many plants contain essential oils that insects do not like. Spices such as chives, lavender, bay leaves, sage, thyme, hyssop and walnut leaves help to keep insects away (see also the **Plants as protection against pests and diseases** information sheet),
- Purines and plant extracts repel insects.
- You can therefore use these types of mixtures not only to fertilise and fortify your plants but also as a spray remedy (see also the **Fertilisation with purines** information sheet),
- Encourage the presence of natural predators of certain insect pests in your garden (see also the **Beneficial animals** information sheet).

Effective home remedies and commercial remedies

Potassium soap	Helps combat many pests such as aphids and even stubborn scale insects.	Melt 1 tablespoon of potassium soap in hot water, add a dash of denatured alcohol and mix with 1 litre of water. If necessary, repeat the treatment several days apart in order to kill pests at different stages of their development.
Tansy	Effective against many insects.	Place 100 grams of fresh flowering plants in 1 litre of water. Boil, leave to infuse for 5 to 15 minutes and spray the cooled liquid onto the plants.
Pyrethrum	Highly effective against all insects, including beneficial ones. This remedy is highly toxic to fish, so do not use near bodies of water.	Ready-to-use flower extracts can be purchased. NB: Plant pyrethrum should not be confused with synthetically produced pyrethroids. These substances keep much longer and are far more toxic.
Quassia wood	This is a lethal insecticide for all insects if they ingest it or come into contact with it. When used properly, it is safe for humans and other warm-blooded creatures.	Tropical quassia wood is used in the form of a tea or powder. Given its long-lasting effect, it is ideal for use in cracks, joints and other hollow spaces.
Neem tree products	Most effective against insects that moult or form cocoons.	Commercially available in oil or extract form.

Remember: our local wood ant is a protected species. If you have a large plot of land on the edge of a forest that is home to wood ants, protect the anthill or have it relocated by professionals from the Nature and Forest Agency (Administration de la Nature et des Forêts). You can move other ants by putting an upside-down flowerpot filled with sand on top of the anthill. After a while, the animals will move their colony upwards, and you can move the animals together with their nest.

Ladybugs are among the best performing aphid exterminators. Foster the presence of beneficial animals in your garden.



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