Meet Nature’s Pest Control

Less than one percent of insects are considered garden pests. Insects that are considered good for the garden are called “beneficials.” They eat troublemakers such as aphids and mites. Beneficial insects are often far more sensitive to pesticides than the pest you may be trying to kill. When pesticides eliminate beneficial insects, pests are free to multiply without a natural check.

Home gardeners can create a garden that attracts beneficial insects and doesn’t require toxic pesticides by choosing the right plant for the right location and creating healthy soil. Plants like asters, fleabane, rosemary, yarrow, sweet alyssum and buckwheat will help attract beneficial insects to your garden. For more information, read “Growing a Healthy Garden to Manage Pests Naturally”—available online at www.ourwaterourworld.org.

Things to Avoid and Why

- **Aerosols and Home Foggers**
  Aerosols and home foggers disperse chemicals in a way that significantly increases the risks of exposure to unintentional targets—including people and pets.

- **Metaldehyde Snail Baits**
  They contribute to hundreds of pet poisonings per year.

- **Pyrethroids**
  They are a threat to water quality and may be listed on products* under a variety of names. These include bifenthrin, cyfluthrin (including beta-cyfluthrin), cypermethrin, deltamethrin, esfenvalerate, lambda-cyhalothrin, tralomethrin and permethrin. Permethrin is a likely carcinogen.

*Look at the front of the label under “Active Ingredients.”

What is OUR WATER—OUR WORLD (OWOW)?

The OWOW program is a partnership between local government agencies and businesses to reduce water pollution caused by pesticides. This pocket-guide offers product choices that are less toxic to people, pets and the environment. For a larger list, visit www.ourwaterourworld.org.
Ants
- Combat Quick Kill
- Combat Source Kill
- Grant’s Kills Ants
- Orange Guard
- Safer Roach and Ant Killing Powder
- Tanglefoot Pest Barrier
- Terro II Liquid Ant Baits

Aphids
- Bonide Rose RX 3 in 1
- Bug Blaster
- Concern Pesticidal Oil
- Greenlight Neem
- Greenlight Rose Defense
- Insecticidal Soaps (e.g., Bonide, Garden Safe, Concern)
- Ortho Volk Oil
- Sunspray Ultra-Fine Oil

Cockroaches
- Combat Quick Kill
- Combat Roach Killing Gel
- Concern Crawling Insect Killer
- PIC Boric Acid Roach Powder
- Roach and Insect Magnet
- Roach Motel or Roach Prufe
- Safer Crawling Insect Killer
- Safer Roach and Ant Killing Powder

Fleas
- Concern Crawling Insect Killer
- Fleanix
- Greenlight Biorganic Lawn & Garden*
- Insecticidal Soaps*
- *(will work on adult fleas and is only to be applied outdoors where pets may be lying)
- Safer Crawling Insect Killer

Mealybugs
- Bonide All Seasons Oil
- Concern Pesticidal Oil
- Lily Miller Superior Type Oil
- Monterey Safe-T-Cide
- Ortho Volk Oil
- Stoller Natural Oil
- Summit Year Round Oil

Mosquitoes
- Bayer Mosquito Preventer Granules
- Bonide Mosquito Plunks
- Mosquito Bits
- Prestrike granules (larvae control only)
- Summit Mosquito Dunks
- Vectobac

Mites
- Bonide All Season’s Oil
- Bonide RX 3 in 1
- Garden Safe Fungicide 3
- Greenlight Neem
- Greenlight Rose Defense
- Lily Miller Superior Type Oil
- Master Nursery Pest Fighter Oil
- Ortho Volk Oil
- Summit Year Round Oil
- Sun-Spray Ultra Fine

Snails and Slugs
- Bayer Action Slug and Snail
- Bayer Slug Magic
- Copper Barrier Tape
- Escargo
- Garden Safe Slug and Snail
- Sluggo
- Worry Free

Whiteflies
- Whitefly Sticky Traps
  (See Mite Control Oil Products)

Yellowjackets
- Traps

This pocket guide was developed by Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP) in San Rafael, 415/499-6528, with assistance from Ann Joseph Consulting.

PEST AND LESS TOXIC ALTERNATIVES

Mites
- Bonide All Season’s Oil
- Bonide RX 3 in 1
- Garden Safe Fungicide 3
- Greenlight Neem
- Greenlight Rose Defense
- Lily Miller Superior Type Oil
- Master Nursery Pest Fighter Oil
- Ortho Volk Oil
- Summit Year Round Oil
- Sun-Spray Ultra Fine

Snails and Slugs
- Bayer Action Slug and Snail
- Bayer Slug Magic
- Copper Barrier Tape
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- Garden Safe Slug and Snail
- Sluggo
- Worry Free

Whiteflies
- Whitefly Sticky Traps
  (See Mite Control Oil Products)

Yellowjackets
- Traps

Less Toxic Active Ingredients

- abamectin
- ammoniated soap of fatty acids
- arsenic (ONLY in containerized bait form)
- Bacillus subtilis
- Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis
- borax
- boric acid
- canola oil
- castor oil, vegetable wax, gum resin
- citric acid
- clove, rosemary, sesame and thyme oil
- corn gluten
- d-Limonene
- diatomaceous earth
- eugenol
- fipronil (ONLY in containerized bait form)
- hydramethylnon
- hydrophobic extract of neem
- iron phosphate
- methoprene
- orthoboric acid
- paraffinic oil
- petroleum oil
- potassium bicarbonate
- potassium soap (or salts) of fatty acids
- sodium tetraborate decahydrate
- soybean oil and cottonseed oil

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Funded under agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board pursuant to Costa-Machado Water Act of 2000 (Prop 13)