



# Home & Garden Pest Management Guide For British Columbia

2019 Edition

## Introduction



# Introduction

A pest is a harmful, noxious or troublesome organism. Pests include weeds, insects, fungi, bacteria, viruses, nematodes, rodents, and other plant or animal pests.

This publication is intended as a guide for home gardeners and horticultural and landscape consultants. It is designed to assist the reader to accurately identify pests, and to prevent and manage pest problems using a combination of pest management practices.

This guide describes common pests found in British Columbia, and includes photographs to assist with identification. Information is also included on some invasive pests that are not yet found in B.C., but could threaten agriculture, our forests or the environment. Guidance on where to obtain further information or assistance on pest identification and management is included. The guide provides recommendations on various pest management practices including cultural activities, biological controls, mechanical practices, and pesticides (including biopesticides) registered by Health Canada for use in the home and garden. Should you need to use a pesticide, this guide provides information on how to use them safely and properly. The combination of all of these activities is called Integrated Pest Management or IPM. For more information on IPM, see the Chapter 4 “Integrated Pest Management”.

Information on most of the common pests that gardeners may encounter in British Columbia is included in this guide, but it is not a complete list. If the symptoms you are seeing do not match any of the pests described in this guide, or the management techniques suggested are ineffective, we suggest you contact a professional landscaper, garden centre, the [UBC Hortline](#) or a Master Gardener in your area for further advice. For a list of resources see Chapter 2 “Identification of Plant Problems”.

## How to use this Guide

If you encounter a pest problem on your plants or around the home, read the chapter “Identification of Plant Problems” first and then refer to the chapter on the crop or plants affected. The chapters on insect pests and diseases are grouped by crop type (e.g. berries and grapes, ornamentals, vegetables). Some chapters have sections that describe general pests that affect all or most of the crops in that chapter, such as “Ornamentals”, followed by descriptions of specific pests of each crop or plant, such as “Roses”. For each pest, signs and symptoms to aid in identifying the problem are described. The “Management” sections include preventative and cultural controls, such as sanitation or growing resistant varieties, which are often sufficient to prevent or resolve pest problems. Pesticides that are the least persistent in the environment or have the least effect on beneficial organisms are also listed.

Separate chapters are provided on bird, mammal and insect pests that sometimes cause damage in or around the home. Weeds are discussed in the chapter on “Integrated Weed Management”.

## Disclaimer

Mention of any commercial brand name product in this guide implies no endorsement or guarantee by the authors or the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture. Due to changes in labels, laws and regulations that occur over time, the Ministry of Agriculture assumes no liability for the use of pesticides or other control measures recommended in this guide.

No product may be used for pest control in Canada unless it is registered in Canada for the intended use and bears a *Pest Control Products Act* registration number. At all times, pest control products must be applied according to the label directions on the container. Please check the [Health Canada website](#) for current information about approved products.

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