



# Pesticide Free Gardening

*Here are simple tips to keep your garden healthy without harmful chemicals.*



Healthy soil is the best way to prevent weed growth and plant diseases and keeps plants healthy. Nourish your soil yearly with compost and organic mulch.



Select native or locally adaptable plants. Consider their light, slope, and water requirements before you choose. Plants, in their natural environment, will do well and be less prone to plant disease and pests.



Plant a diverse garden with a variety of plant species, preferably native. Beneficial birds and bugs will be attracted to your garden to combat harmful insects. Consider the use of companion plants that prosper in the company of other plant species.



Rotate the plants you use from year to year to prevent insects from establishing themselves in your garden.

Hand weed as much as possible. This is easiest to do when the soil is moist. There are other mechanical weed control devices available. Check with your favourite garden centre.



Apply a thick layer of mulch to your garden beds. It will shade plant roots, help retain moisture, and prevent weed seeds from establishing. Compost, grass clippings, leaf debris, and bark mulch are all good organic mulches. If weeds do grow, a thick mulch layer makes it easier to weed.



Most insects are not damaging pests. For the few that are, there are many natural products and methods to deal with them, available at many garden centres. *e.g. soaps, barrier cloths, and bio-bugs.*

*For more information, see the **Pesticide Free Gardening** brochure available inside the Okanagan Science Centre.*