

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

Common pests and diseases: Radishes

When growing vegetables, it is always exciting to care for the plant throughout its growing phase and then harvest it for delicious recipes later on, but one thing to watch out for is pests and diseases. Different plants are susceptible to different types of pests and diseases, and it is important to make yourself aware so you can keep a watchful eye and also take any preventative methods to keep your plants safe throughout their lifespan.

Radishes can fall victim to several different pests and diseases.



[Radish seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

Pests:

Some of the most common pests attacking radishes include aphids, cutworms and cabbage loopers. Typically, the pests only affect the radish's foliage since the radish is grown underground, but it is still very important to control any infestations. Since radish greens can also be consumed, it's important to keep them healthy.

Aphids are soft-bodied insects that bring problems to lots of plants. They create discoloration of the leaves, necrotic spots and stunted growth. Use tolerant varieties and only apply insecticides if there's a high infestation.

Armyworms will cause closely grouped holes in the foliage, and heavy feeding can cause leaves to become skeletonized. You may see egg clusters on the leaves. To organically control armyworms, encourage natural enemies or apply *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

Cabbage loopers will leave large holes in

the leaves and can cause lots of damage. Eggs are typically laid in singularly. To control cabbage loopers, encourage natural enemies. You can handpick them from the plants, or apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* to kill the larvae. Stay away from chemical sprays which might harm natural predators.

Diseases:

Some common diseases affecting radishes include *Alternaria* blight, clubroot, downy mildew, white rust and more.

Alternaria blight will cause dark or yellow spots on leaves, stems or the flowers of the radish. The lesion's center may dry out. This is a fungus that prefers warm, wet weather. To manage, only plant diseases-free seed, treat seeds with hot water prior to planting, rotate crops and irrigate plants in the morning.

Clubroot causes slow growing or stunted plants with leaves that yellow during the



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day, wilt during the day and then become rejuvenated at night. To prevent this from happening, plant only disease-free seed and apply lime to the soil.

Downy mildew causes lesions on the upper surface of the leaves and a white growth on the bottom of the leaves. It favors cool, damp weather. To prevent this, remove all crop debris and rotate crops.

White rust causes white pustules on leaves, stems and flowers which grow as the infection spreads. Leaves may roll and become thick. The disease is spread by the wind. To prevent this disease, plant only disease-free seed and apply fungicides if needed.

You can find radish seeds on our website at ufseeds.com!



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