

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

Common pests and diseases: Chard

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.

Chard can fall victim to several different pests and diseases.



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

Pests:

The top three pests that can affect Swiss chard are aphids, spinach leafminers and flea beetles.

If flea beetles are present, leaves will appear wilted. Use sticky tape to remove the beetles, or spray with a commercial spray that contains pyrethrins. You can also use a homemade spray with five parts water, two parts rubbing alcohol and 1 tablespoon of liquid dish soap.

Spinach leafminers will create long and narrow tunnels in the Swiss chard. Use cheesecloth covers or netting to cover your crop and protect them. You can also use an insecticidal soap spray to treat this pest.

Aphids are a very common issue and can be treated with insecticidal soap spray. Avoid using insecticides here, because it will also kill aphid-eating insects like lady bugs.

Diseases:

There are four main diseases that can affect Swiss chard, and they are leaf spot, downy mildew, cucumber mosaic virus and mystery fungus.

Leaf spot will first appear as reddish brown rings or spots on the leaves. It makes the chard unmarketable. Usually, leaf spot can be caused by long rainy spells during warm weather. Farmers and gardeners alike are encouraged to practice crop rotation, use a seed that isn't infected and given other tips. However, sometimes the problem can occur anyway if the conditions are favorable. To manage this disease, remove the older leaves that are affected and treat the rest with copper sprays or fungicides.

Downy mildew can be mistaken for powdery mildew, but the two are separate issues. Downy mildew is very difficult to control if it affects Swiss chard, and it usually appears at the end of the winter in the spring. The



100%
Non-GMO Seed



One Day
Shipping



100%
Satisfaction Guarantee



Family
Owned + Operated

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

disease can appear on its own and leave new growth unharmed.

Cucumber mosaic virus will slow the growth rate of the plants and affect individual plants instead of the entire crop. To test if the plant is infected, hold the leaves up to the light. Those infected will have fainter mottling than healthy leaves. To manage this virus, work to keep aphids out of the Swiss chard.

Mystery fungus happens when the weather is cool and wet. It attacks the leaves, but it appears as blotches instead of circular spots. It usually affects patches and not the entire crop. Use carbendazim to treat it.

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



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



100%
Non-GMO Seed



One Day
Shipping



100%
Satisfaction Guarantee



Family
Owned + Operated