

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## Common pests and diseases: Horseradish

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.

Horseradish can fall victim to several different pests and diseases.



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

### Pests:

Some of the common pests affecting horseradish plants include the cabbage looper and flea beetles.

Cabbage loopers will cause holes in the leaves that can be small or large. The caterpillars are green and have white lines on each side of their body. Handpick the larvae from the plants, or apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* to kill the younger larvae.

Flea beetle will cause small holes in leaves, especially for younger plants or seedlings. This can reduce the plant's growth and even kill the plant if damage is severe enough. Apply mulch to prevent the beetles from reaching the soil's surface and apply neem oil to help organically control the problem.

### Diseases:

Bacterial leaf spot, brittle root, *Cercospora* leaf spot, *Ramularia* leaf spot and others are diseases that commonly affect the horseradish plant.

Bacterial leaf spot will create translucent spots on the leaves and the spots then turn black and will spread across the leaves' surface. This will eventually cause the leaves to curl up and die. The spots will grow after lots of rain. The disease prefers hot weather. To prevent this disease, remove debris from around your plants while they grow and immediately after harvest to prevent the disease from overwintering.

Brittle root will inhibit the plant's growth, and it will cause chlorotic leaves which collapse and dry out. The roots of the horseradish plant will become brittle, and they will be discolored. Use insecticides to prevent beet leafhoppers, which transmit the disease. It is one of the most destructive diseases for horseradish.

*Cercospora* leaf spot will cause tan spots with a lighter center on the leaves. This leads to the leaves dying and the plant will be defoliated. Remove infected plants



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immediately and destroy them to prevent further spread of the disease. To prevent this disease, avoid working with the plants when they are wet. Treat seeds with hot water to eliminate the fungus prior to planting them.

Ramularia leaf spot will first appear as a yellow-green circular patch between the leaves' veins. The lesions' centers will dry out and drop from the plant. The entire leaf will dry out if the infection is severe enough. To prevent this disease, remove weeds and debris from around the plants and don't use sprinklers. If you notice an infected plant, destroy it immediately. Practice crop rotation.

You can find horseradish seeds on our website at [ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)!



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