

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## Common pests and diseases: Chicory

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.

Chicory may be one of the lesser grown vegetables in the home garden, but it can still fall victim to several different pests and diseases.



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

### Pests:

Slugs and snails are some of the biggest problems affecting chicory plants. They will create irregular holes in the plants' leaves and stems, and the plant's flowers and fruit may also appear damaged. If the infestation is bad enough, leaves may even appear shredded and there will be slime across the leaves. These pests mostly prefer habitats that are moist and shaded, and they oftentimes seek shelter in weeds or trash, so be sure your garden is clean. To manage this issue, spread wood ashes and eggshells around plants or leave out lettuce or grapefruit skins to attract the pests away from your chicory. If you place dishes filled with beer in the soil, it will attract the snails and slugs and then drown them. For chemical uses, use ferrous phosphate if your garden is organic, or metaldehyde and carbaryl if you don't have an organic garden.

### Diseases:

Several diseases can affect the chicory plant, such as anthracnose, downy mildew, fusarium wilt, certain kinds of rots and more.

Anthracnose is a fungal disease that causes small circular or irregular shaped dry gray spots, which can also be straw colored, on the leaves. If there is a high number of spots, the leaf can die. Lesions may even appear to split and crack in the dry centers. The fungus will overwinter on the leaves, and it is more likely to emerge when the conditions are warm and moist. To manage this issue, treat the seeds with hot water before you plant them, practice crop rotation and be sure to plant chicory in an area with soil that drains well.

Downy mildew is a fungus that causes the younger leaves to dry up and drop off, or the older leaves will become papery. Plant resistant varieties or apply fungicides to manage this disease.



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Fusarium wilt causes water-soaked lesions on the plant's foliage, and leaves will droop off and become yellow. High temperatures followed by rainfall can spread this disease.

Certain rots are untreatable if they occur, like bacterial soft rot, but the best way to prevent this diseases is to rotate crops and plant the chicory in well-draining soil and raised beds. Only harvest the chicory when it is dry and avoid damaging the heads during the harvest.

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



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