

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

Common pests and diseases: Turnips

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.

Turnips can fall victim to several different pests and diseases.

Pests:

Some of the common pests affecting turnips include aphids, wireworms and root maggots.

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.

Wireworms will cause seedlings to die and also cause girdled stems. Till the soil frequently to reduce the amount of wireworms and rotate crops to a non-host crop the following year if possible.

Root maggots will cause scars on the surface of the turnip and feeding tunnels as well. The damage done to the roots may be extensive. The larvae are white and yellow in color and the adult resembles a horsefly. To manage this, avoid planting crops in the same area the following year if you notice a problem.



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

Utilize floating row cover to prevent the females from laying eggs.

Diseases:

Some of the common diseases affecting turnips include *Alternaria* leaf spot, clubroot, downy mildew and white spot.

Alternaria leaf spot causes small, dark spots on the leaves which will then turn brown or gray. This disease favors cool, wet weather. To prevent this from happening, plant only pathogen-free seed, practice crop rotation and apply the appropriate fungicides when needed.

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



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

White spots causes small, necrotic, brown spots on the leaf tips or the margins of the leaves, and the brown will mature to a light gray or a white color. These lesions may cause defoliation, and the disease is more likely to emerge in cool and wet conditions. To prevent this from happening, practice crop rotation and removing weeds because there is no known plant resistance to white spot. Also, you can apply the appropriate fungicides to help fight the disease.

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



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