

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## Common pests and diseases: Burdock

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.

Burdock is generally resistant to a number of pests and diseases, but there are certain issues that can arise.

### Pests:

Burdock is resistant to most pests as well as diseases, but slugs can actually be a problem for this plant. Snails and slugs are oftentimes hard to get rid of and they are unsightly, but there are certain methods you can take to rid your garden of these pests. One way to prevent slugs is to clean up the garden itself so the slugs can't seek shelter in unnecessary plants and debris. Another way to prevent these pests is to remove fallen fruit or vegetables from the garden because slugs enjoy feeding on these items. If you have a poorly managed compost area, this also provides shelter, food and an environment to lay eggs in, so make sure you tidy up your compost area.

Since slugs are nocturnal, it is suggested you water in the morning and not in the evening, because slugs like moisture and if you water in the evening, it creates optimal conditions for the slugs to thrive in your garden.



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

If you do find slugs in your garden, kill them early, such as in the spring, because this will prevent egg laying. To kill the slugs, use a shovel to cut off their heads, which is the easiest way to kill them. Boiling water also will kill them. Or, you can use tweezers to pick them up and put them in a container with concentrated washer fluid, which also will kill them instantly. Another method is by using a beer trap, where you dig a hole in the ground and hide an open container or bowl of beer there. Empty the container daily.

### Diseases:

Burdock is resistant to most diseases, so as a gardener, you probably won't struggle too much with diseases with this plant. However, the burdock itself can become a problem, because it is known to be an invasive plant. The plant will oftentimes spread spontaneously, so to prevent this, you should work to not allow the plant to flourish. Cut off the flowers before they fade,



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because this will prevent seeding from occurring and then seed spilling to occur. Another popular way to counter invasiveness is to keep burdock contained to a confined space while growing.

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



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