

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

Common pests and diseases: Artichokes

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.

Artichokes can fall victim to several different pests and diseases.

Pests:

Some of the organisms that can harm an artichoke plant include sucking insects, such as aphids, mites, scabs and thrips. These pests not only aid in transmitting diseases that can harm an artichoke plant, they also slow down the rate at which the plant grows.

Other insects, such as chewing insects like leafhoppers, moths, cutworms, armyworms and larvae can harm the artichoke plant by damaging the leaves, worsen the aesthetic appeal of the plant and even kill the plant's foliage if let get out of control.

There are several ways to prevent and rid these pests from your artichoke plants. The first step is to check the plant to check if you can see any of the pests. Do not forget to check underneath the plant's large leaves.

If you do find some of the above pests harming your artichoke plants, there are several methods you can take. First, spray the leaves of the plant in the morning with water to wash away many of the insects.



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

Next, you can utilize a horticultural soap or a neem oil for the plants that may be experiencing a larger infestation. If you see any larvae on the plant, pick them off before they can damage it. If the infestation is truly out of control, use pesticides.

Diseases:

It is not just bugs that can harm or even kill your artichoke plants, but the artichoke plant is susceptible to several different diseases, as well. One common occurrence that happens in young plants is damping off, which is a soil-borne disease that makes the artichokes wilt and then die.

Powdery mildew and Botrytis fungus are two common diseases affecting the artichoke plant. The powdery mildew will create a white coating on the leaves and the Botrytis fungus will cause the plant to collapse.

Diseases are a bit tougher to stop once they occur, but prevention is the gardener's best



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friend when it comes to keeping diseases away. Utilize crop rotation so the same type of crops aren't growing in the same area year after year. Another common mistake made by gardeners is overhead watering, and by avoiding this, you may be able to avoid many different types of diseases, especially those caused by fungus.

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



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