

# PESTS, DISEASES AND PROBLEMS

- Rarer, less devastating in organiculture
- Good practice = Genuine Preventative Protection: Soil Preparation / Regular T.L.C.
- Address causes not just disguise symptoms (Chemiculture)
- Plants want / are programmed to grow healthily and fulfill their awesome potential
- Intervene at first sign of problem, rather than too late / when proliferating (observations)
- Hand-rubbing at early stage(e.g. caterpillars / big bud)
- Panaceas: Seaweed / Humus ( Bulky Organic Matter / Mature compost &/or manure)
- Often occur in combinations E. g. Insect Vectors + Virus
- Try to achieve / maintain a balance / equilibrium between predators and pests
- Problems may indicate imbalance & suggest solution (e.g. under- / over-fertilisation)
- Amend / adapt / improve cultivation practices
- Weather-dependant / Seasonal / Predictable
- Especially in protected Microclimates

**PESTS:** INSECTS: Aphids / Greenfly / Flea-beetle / Weevil / Larvae / Caterpillars / Woodlice / Earwigs / Millipedes

MOLLUSCS: Slugs / Snails

ANIMALS: Birds / Mice / Rabbits / Badgers / Livestock / Vandals

**DISEASES:** Rots / Wilts / Cankers / Viruses

**PREDATORS** (BIOLOGICAL CONTROL) Encourage Natural Food Chains

INSECTS: Ladybirds / Hoverflies / Lacewings / Spiders / Beetles / Centipedes

ANIMALS: Frogs / Cats / Birds / Foxes

**COMPANIONS** (Annual / Perennial)

Calendula / Nasturtium / Garlic / Chamomile / Comfrey / Balm

CROP COMBINATIONS: E.g. Brassicas + Legumes

**SPRAYS** (+ soap to stick)

SEAWEED General purpose foliar feed

QUASSIA Against Bugs Hot weather

HORSETAIL Strengthens / Protects Growth Cold / Wet weather

PRIVET / RHUBARB / URINE etc. (Dissuade / Smell)

LIQUID FEEDS/TEAS: Nettle (Nitrogen = Leaf growth) / Comfrey (Potash = Fruit / Root)

**SLUG CONTROL**

Site Layout / Tidiness / Beds & Paths clear (Use weeds / cropwaste to trap)

Planks; Check regularly / after rain / Moveable / Surround Bed

Beer-traps: For Vulnerable Crops / Especially May-June

Mulch Management: Type (Wet / Dry / Time to rot / Surface Only) & Timing

**Learner Sig.**

**Date**

**Assessor Sig.**