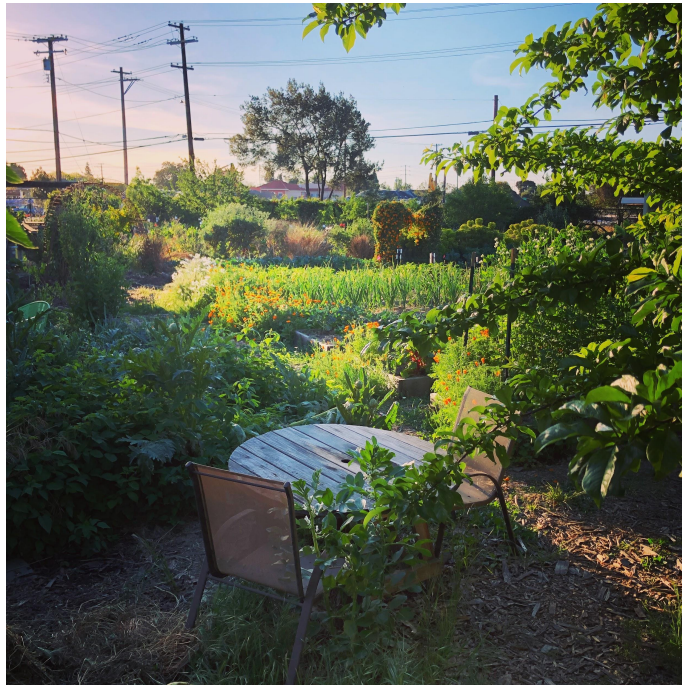


Organic Pest Management

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The number one thing we can do to prevent pests is to grow healthy plants that are able to defend themselves!



The Forge Garden's Integrated Pest Management Plan

The plan is specifically created for the Forge Garden, however other urban farms in the region may find it useful. An Integrated Pest Management Plan will be used to increase student awareness and allow students to problem-solve.

Bindweed, verticillium wilt, fusarium, squash bug, cucumber beetle, rodents, and white cabbage moth tend to be the biggest issues at The Forge Garden. The Integrated Pest Management Plan follows the six pillars of monitoring, record keeping, action level, prevention, tactic criteria and evaluation. The IPM plan uses both biological and structural strategies to control a multitude of pest problems.

Monitoring and Record Keeping

- The garden is inspected daily for signs of pest damage, plant disease, weeds and insects.
- Greenhouse is watered every morning and inspected for disease, pests, or nutrient deficiencies.
- Available resources are used to identify insect lifecycle, disease, or fungal problems.
- A Common Forge Garden Pests and Disease book is created.
- Based on research, the team creates an action plan for each pest problem.
- If pest, disease, or weed is not listed in the Common Forge Garden Pests, add it to the book.
- Keep a garden journal to record when, where and quantity of pest are sighted and at what time of year.
- Crop rotation of plant families is used to reduce the transfer of pests or disease from year to year.

Sanitation

- Greenhouse pots are sanitized after disease or pest outbreak using a diluted bleach solution.
- After harvest, diseased plant debris is placed in the greenbins to be composted offsite at Santa Clara City Greenwaste center.

Structural barriers

- Floating row cover is used as a barrier to flying insects such as cabbage moth, or squash beetle (if needed, row cover must be removed before pollination).
- Netting is used as a barrier to ward off birds, squirrels, and mice.
- Trap cropping is used with careful care and attention to contain the desired pest.

Kaolin Clay is used to prevent insects from attacking young plants (such as the squash beetle).

Biological Controls

Native and other beneficial perennial plants are planted throughout garden to attract beneficial insects and birds.

Biodiversity is a key component when selecting seeds.

Companion planting or guilds are used to deter pests or attract beneficial insects and birds.

Organic Controls

Soapy water sprays, neem oil are used to remove aphids.

Diatomaceous earth is used to kill Japanese beetles, slugs and squash beetle.