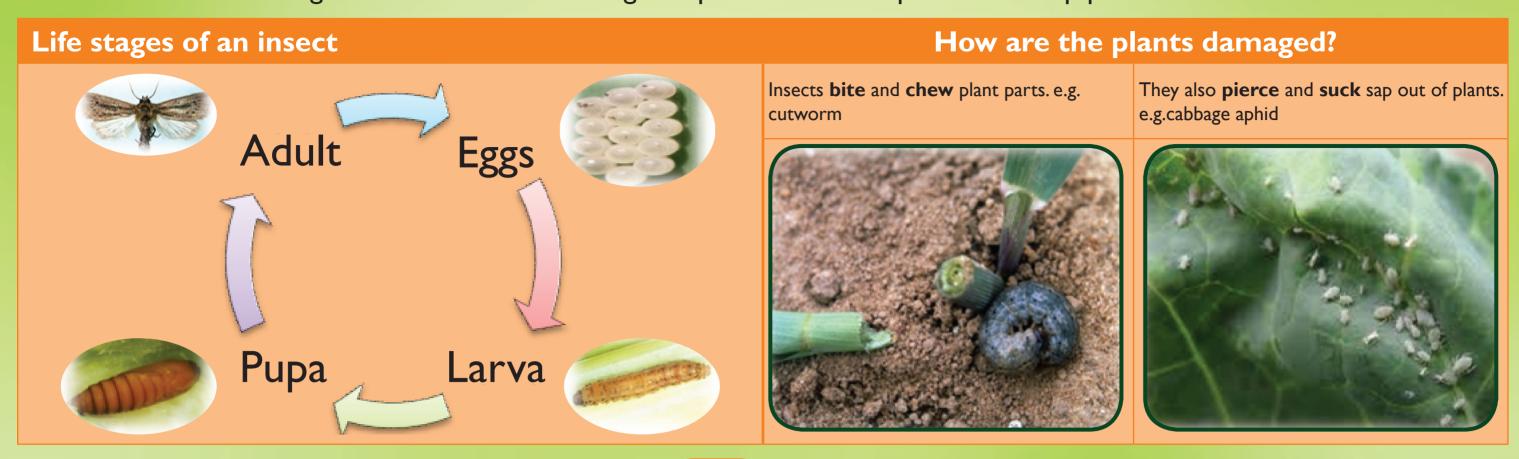






An organism which causes damage on plants is called a pest-most crop pests are insects.



How are pests controlled?



Inspect crops regularly; observe the type(s) of insects present and their numbers and check if they cause any damage to the plants.

Prevention	Correcting
✓ Maintain high level of soil nutrients	✓ Remove insects causing damage by hand, especially when they are few
✓ Practice crop rotation	✓ Apply environmentally friendly sprays
✓ Practice companion planting	✓ Apply insecticides sparingly and with extreme caution
✓ Promote beneficial insects – these usually prey on other insects	
✓ Plant when pest populations are low	
✓ Plant pest resistant cultivars	

Plant Families

Plant families are key in practising crop rotation and companion planting or intercropping. Avoid planting the same crops (or its relative) on the same plot repeatedly. Intercropping is when different plants are grown on the same plot/field.

Families of common vegetable crops include

Apiaceae (Carrot Family): Carrot, parsnip, parsley, celery Brassicaceae (Cabbage Family): Cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower

Cucurbitaceae (Pumpkin Family): Squash, pumpkin cucumber, watermelon, gourd

Chenopodiaceae: Beetroot, Swiss chard (spinach)

Convolvulaceae: Sweet potato

Gramineae (Cereals): Maize, sorghum, rice, wheat

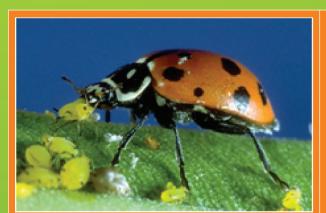
Fabaceae (Legumes): Beans, soybean, peas, cowpeas, peanuts Solanaceae (Potato Family): Tomato, pepper, eggplant, potato

Homemade solutions

Garlic Spray	Tomato or Comfrey Sprays	Wood ash
	of hot water; allow to stand overnight, strain and spray on plants.	repels cutworms, beetles and some crawling insects. Sprinkle on the ground or on plants.

Beneficial insects

These eat (or parasitise) most of the garden pests such as aphids, caterpillars, mites, whiteflies and scale. They include:



Ladybugs - they eat aphids, mites, whiteflies and scale.



Lacewings - eat soft scales, mites, thrips, and aphids



Praying mantis - are deadly predators to a variety of insects



Spiders – trap insects using their webs. They then catch and devour them.



Wasps – eat a variety of soft bodied insects. They also parasitize some insects.



