

General Use Insecticides for Home Gardeners

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Entfact-445

Home gardeners are confronted with a large number of potential insect problems. The types of potential insect problems will depend on their location, health of their plants, and types of plants they grow. Depending on the type of plant, problems can range from rare to frequent. A pest management program for home gardeners should rely on proper identification of insect pests, effective use of preventive cultural controls, conservation of natural enemies, and use of chemical controls as a last resort if other control strategies are ineffective or unavailable for a particular problem.

Cultural controls that help home gardeners reduce pest problems include proper site selection, sanitation of residues and weeds, use of resistant varieties, cultivation, crop rotation, altering planting and harvest dates appropriate timing and amount of irrigation and fertilization, and use of barriers and exclusion. Cultural controls are used preventively and selected according to the chances of particular insect problems occurring in the area.

Another important concept is that it often takes a large number of a particular pest to reduce the yield of plants and affect plant health. A single aphid should not cause alarm, but many colonies on just a few plants may require action. In this instance, a strong stream of water or an application of insecticidal soap may be all that is needed.

This publication lists some of the various general use insecticides that are currently on the market for home gardeners. The usage

area for a particular insecticide is indicated, but the user must check each label to be sure that application to particular types of plants is permitted. Only the uses listed on the pesticide label are permitted. You must read the labels to understand the restrictions. Another label restriction is the minimum amount of time between application and when food crops can be harvested. This is referred to as the pre-harvest interval (PHI). Other information concerning mixing and dosages, application methods, protective equipment, storage, and container disposal are also included on the label.

Not all brands of insecticides are listed in these tables, as some companies do not make their pesticide labels available on the internet. But the list does provide a comprehensive guide to the types of materials available to home gardeners.

Revised: 2/24

Insecticide (AI)	Example Trade Names ¹	Area for Use				
		Houseplants	Lawns	Perimeter ²	Ornamentals	Fruit
Carbamates (IRAC 1A)						
carbaryl	Southern Ag Carbaryl Dust (5%) Southern Ag Mole Cricket Bait (5%) Garden Tech Sevin 5% Dust (5%)		✓ ✓ ✓		✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓
Organophosphates (IRAC 1B)						
acephate	Bonide Systemic Insect Control (9.4%) Bioadvanced 2n1 Systemic Rose and Flower Care Granules (1.5%)				✓ ✓	
malathion	Ortho Max Malathion Insect Spray Concentrate (50%) Bonide Malathion Insect Control (50%) Gordon's Malathion 50% Spray (50%) Spectracide Malathion Insect Spray Concentrate (50%) Southern Ag Malathion 50% EC (50%)				✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
trichlorfon	Bioadvanced 24 Hour Grub Killer Plus (9.3%)		✓			
Pyrethrins and Pyrethroids (IRAC 3A)						
beta-cyfluthrin	Bioadvanced Fire Ant Killer Granules (0.5%)		✓		✓	
bifenthrin	Bonide Eight Insect Control Flower & Vegetable Soil Insect Granules (0.115%) Southern Ag Lawnstar Granular Insecticide (0.2%) Ortho Home Defense Insect Killer for Lawns Granules (0.115%) Ortho Fire Ant Killer Mount Treatment 1 (0.2%) Ortho Bug-B-Gon Lawn Insect Killer (0.2%) Ortho Home Defense Insect Killer Granules 3 (0.115%) Fertilome Broad Spectrum Insecticide (0.03%) Monterey Vegetable Garden Soil Insecticide (0.115%)		✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓		✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
cyfluthrin	Bioadvanced 24 Hour Lawn Insect & Fire Ant Killer (0.75%) Bioadvanced Complete Insect Killer for Soil and Turf Concentrate I (0.75%) Bioadvanced Insect Killer for Lawns (0.75%)		✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓
deltamethrin	Ortho Insect Killer Rose and Flower (0.02%) Ortho Insect Killer Flower & Vegetable Garden Dust (0.05%) Green Light Many Purpose Dust (0.05%)	✓ ✓			✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓
esfenvalerate	Monterey Bug Buster II (0.425%)		✓		✓	✓
gamma-cyfluthrin	Spectracide Triazicide Insect Killer for Lawns & Landscapes (0.08%) Spectracide Triazicide Insect Killer for Lawns & Landscapes Granules (0.08%)		✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓

lambda-cyhalothrin	Bioadvanced Complete Insect Killer for Lawns (0.1%) Bioadvanced Lawn Insect and Fire Ant Killer (0.1%) Bonide Eight Insect Control Garden and Home RTU (0.002%) Spectracide Ant Shield Insect Killer (0.03%)		✓		✓		✓
permethrin	Bonide Ant, Flea, & Tick Killer Granules (0.25%) Bonide Eight Insect Control Garden Dust (0.125%) Bonide Eight Insect Control Vegetable, Fruit, & Flower Concentrate (2.5%) Bonide Eight Insect Control Yard & Garden RTS (2.5%) Gordon's Garden Guard Insecticide Dust (0.25%) Southern Ag Garden Insect Dust (0.25%) Southern Ag Permetrol Lawn Insecticide (10%)	✓ ✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
pyrethrins	Monterey Bug Buster – O (1.4%)				✓	✓	✓
pyrethrins + neem oil	Fertilome Triple Action (0.25%/70%) Monterey Fruit Tree Spray Plus (0.25%/70%)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
pyrethrins + PBO	Bonide Japanese Beetle Killer RTU (0.02%/0.2%) Bonide Pyrethrin Garden Insect Spray Concentrate (1%/10%) Southern Ag Pyrethrin Concentrate (0.96%/9.6%)	✓			✓	✓	✓
pyrethrins + PBO + Neem Oil	Ortho Tree and Shrub Fruit Tree Spray (0.25%/2.5%/70%) Fertilome Fruit Tree Spray (0.25%/2.5%/70%)	✓ ✓			✓	✓	✓
pyrethrins + sulfur	Ortho Insect, Mite & Disease 3-IN-1 (0.01%/0.2%)				✓	✓	✓
imidacloprid + tebuconazole	Bioadvanced All in One Rose and Flower CARE (0.15%/0.80%)	✓			✓		
zeta-cypermethrin	Gordon's Bug-No-More Lawn & Garden Insect Control (0.35%) Garden Tech Sevin Insect Killer Concentrate (0.35%)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Neonicotinoids (IRAC 4A)							
acetamiprid	Ortho Flower, Fruit & Vegetable Insect Killer RTU (0.006%)				✓	✓	✓
dinotefuran	Ortho Tree and Shrub Insect Control Granules (2%)				✓		
imidacloprid	Bonide Annual Grub Beater Insect Control with Systemaxx (0.5%) Bonide Annual Tree & Shrub Insect Control with Systemaxx (1.47%) Bonide Systemic Granules Insect Control (0.22%) Bonide Systemic Rose & Flower Care 8-12-4 Granules (0.2%) Bioadvanced 12 Month Tree & Shrub Insect Control Concentrate (2.94%) Bioadvanced 12 Month Tree & Shrub Protect and Feed Concentrate 2-1-1 (1.47%) Bioadvanced 12 Month Tree & Shrub Protect and Feed Granules 2-1-1 (1.1%) Bioadvanced 2 in 1 Systemic Rose & Flower Care Granules II (0.22%) Bioadvanced Fruit, & Citrus Tree Insect Control Concentrate (0.235%) Bioadvanced Fruit, Citrus & Vegetable Insect Control Concentrate (0.235%) Bioadvanced Season Long Grub Control plus Turf Revitalizer (0.25%) Gordon's Grub-No-More Granules (0.2%)		✓		✓	✓	✓

rosemary + peppermint oil	Essentria All Purpose Insect Concentrate (10%/2%)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
rosemary + clove + cottonseed oil	Monterey All Natural Mite & Insect Control RTU (0.2%/0.1%/0.6%)	✓			✓	✓	✓
Indoxacarb	Ortho Fire Ant Killer Mound Bait (0.008%)		✓	✓	✓		
Insecticide Mixtures							
bifenthrin + carbaryl	Bioadvanced Complete Insect Killer for Soil and Turf RTS Granules (0.058%/2.3%)		✓	✓	✓		
bifenthrin + zeta-cypermethrin	Ortho Bug-B-Gon Lawns & Landscape Insect Killer Concentrate (0.3%/0.075%) Ortho Home Defense Insect Killer for Lawns & Landscape Concentrate (0.3%/0.075%) Garden Tech Sevin Insect Killer Lawn Granules (0.115%/0.029%)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
imidacloprid + beta-cyfluthrin	Bioadvanced Complete Insect Killer For Soil & Turf RTS (0.72%/0.36%) Bioadvanced Complete Insect Killer For Soil & Turf Concentrate (0.72%/0.36%) Bioadvanced Complete Insect Killer For Soil & Turf Granules 2-way formula (0.15%/0.05%)		✓	✓			
imidacloprid + clothianidin	Bioadvanced 12 Month Tree & Shrub Protect and Feed Concentrate II (0.74%/0.37%) Bioadvanced 12 Month Tree & Shrub Protect and Feed Granules II (0.55%/0.275%)				✓		
tau-fluvalinate + tebuconazole	Bioadvanced 3-in1 Insect, Disease, & Mite Control Concentrate I (0.47%/0.61%/0.65%)				✓		
imidacloprid + tau-fluvalinate + tebuconazole	Bioadvanced 3-in1 Insect, Disease, & Mite Control Concentrate (0.47%/0.61%/0.65%) Bioadvanced 3-in-1 Insect, Disease, & Mite Control RTU (0.012%/0.014%/0.015%)	✓			✓		
iron phosphate + spinosad	Bonide Captain Jack's Bug & Slug Killer (0.97%/0.07%) Garden's Alive Bull's-EYE Outdoor Granular Ant Bait (0.97%/0.07%) Monterey Sluggo Plus (0.97%/0.07%)		✓		✓	✓	✓
permethrin + tetramethrin	Monterey Rose & Flower Insect Spray (0.2%/0.2%)		✓		✓		

¹ RTS = Ready to Spray; RTU = Ready to Use.

² 'Perimeter' refers to applications that are made either to the soil around the perimeter of dwellings to exterior walls or surfaces.