

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## Common pests and diseases: Garlic

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.

Garlic can fall victim to several different pests and diseases.

### Pests:

Some of the common pests affecting garlic include bulb mites, leafminers, thrips and nematodes.

Bulb mites will stunt the plant's growth and bulbs can rot in the ground or even when they are in storage. The mite looks like a pearl with legs. If they damage the plant, it can allow another invasion from other pests. Practice crop rotation, and treat garlic seed cloves with hot water before planting.

Leafminers can create white splotches on the leaves and the leaves will fall off the plant. If the leafminers infect the plant when it is young, it can reduce its yield. Remove plant debris from the soil immediately after harvest to prevent this, and use insecticides once the damage is identified.

Thrips will create discolored leaves and scarring, and affected garlic plants may look silver in color. To prevent this, don't plant garlic or onion-related plants near grain



[Garlic bulbs available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

fields. Overhead watering may help reduce the thrips. Apply insecticides once you identify the damage as that of a thrip.

Nematodes cause the plant to be stunted in growth and the root system won't have fine roots. There also could be irregular lesions on the roots. Use hot water dips to control the nematodes in the bulbs, because crop rotation will not be very effective since nematodes have an extensive host range.

### Diseases:

Some common diseases garlic plants experience include downy mildew, purple blotch, rust and white rot.

Downy mildew will create pale spots on leaves and a fuzzy growth on the surface of the leaves. Leaves turn pale and then collapse. Apply fungicide to treat and plant in well-draining areas.

Purple blotch will create water-soaked



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lesions on the leaves and stalks. Once they enlarge, they can become purple in color. Infected foliage may die. Practice crop rotation and reduce leaf wetness.

Rust will create white flecks on the leaves and stems, and if the infection becomes severe enough, it can cause the leaves to die. This disease prefers high humidity and low rainfall. The wind can transport the spores far distances. Plant in well-drained soil and control weeds, use a fungicide if necessary.

White rot will cause older leaves to yellow and stunt the leaves' growth. All leaves will then die, and a white growth will appear on the bulb's base. This disease can survive up to 20 years and can cause major crop loss. Treat seeds with hot water before planting, use crop rotation and apply fungicides if available.

You can find garlic bulbs on our website at [ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)!



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