

Glossary

Allergic reaction - Can include rash, itching, swelling, sneezing, runny nose, or trouble breathing due to contact with things a person is allergic to.

Bug - General term for insects. The term “bug” refers to insects with two pairs of wings and “beak” mouthparts for piercing and sucking plant juices or other insects.

Castings - “Worm poop” that forms pellets or small piles. Earthworm castings put nutrients back into the soil.

Caterpillar - What a moth or butterfly looks like in the larval stage of its life cycle.

Compost - A mixture of organic leftovers that may include rotted plant materials, manure, and eggshells. Added to your garden, it nourishes the soil and plants.

Insect - An organism with three body parts (head, thorax, abdomen) and three pairs of jointed legs. Most numerous type of creatures on earth.

Insecticide - A pesticide that kills insects.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) - Choosing among various ways to treat pest problems. The goal is to cause least harm to the environment.

Larva - The second developmental stage for an insect that has a four-stage life cycle: egg, larva, pupa, adult.

Lyme Disease - A flu-like illness caused by the bite of an infected deer tick.

Mulch - A layer of material that gardeners place over the soil to reduce weeds and hold moisture.

Native - A plant or animal that is an original inhabitant of where you live.

Natural Enemy - Something existing in nature that kills or eats an organism.

Nutrients - Substances that organisms need to live and grow.

Nymph - A young insect that has not yet developed into its adult stage. Nymphs look like adults but lack fully-formed wings.

Organism - A living plant or animal.

Parasite - An organism that lives off another organism in a way that harms it.

Pathogen - Something that causes disease or death in an organism.

Pest - Something that shows up where you don't want it. Examples can include weeds, insects, mold, rodents, and bacteria.

Pesticide - A substance used for keeping pests away, killing them, or reducing their numbers. EPA registers — or licenses — pesticides.

Poison - A substance that kills, injures, or impairs an organism through chemical action.

Predator - An organism that kills and eats other organisms.

Prey - An animal that another animal hunts for food.

Spore - A single plant or animal cell that is able to grow into a new plant or animal.

Toxic - A word that means “poisonous in certain amounts.”

Weed - An unwanted plant.