Keep Plants Healthy!

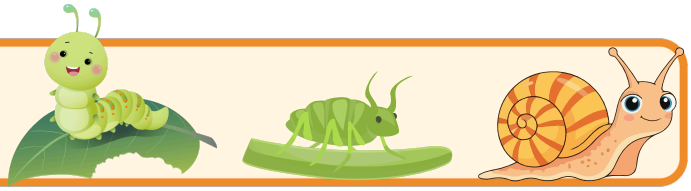




1. What are

Pests are living things that can harm plants. Some chew leaves, suck plant juices or damage roots and fruits. Not every insect is harmful—some insects help plants.

Examples of pests: caterpillars, aphids and snails.



2. What are plant diseases?

Diseases can make plants sick. They may be caused by tiny organisms such as fungi or bacteria. Look for yellow leaves, spots, wilting or rotting.

Check for unusual changes in colour or growth.

Spot the clues!

Circle signs of a plant problem: holes in leaves • spots • healthy leaves • wilting





3. How do we check plants?

- Look under leaves for insects or eggs.
- Notice holes, chewed edges or sticky patches. •

Check for spots, yellowing or drooping.

- Ask an adult for help if a plant looks sick.

4. Ways to protect plants

Use healthy seeds	Healthy seeds are a good start.
Keep plants healthy	Provide suitable water, sunlight and care.
Remove some pests by hand	An adult can safely pick off larger pests.
Wash hands	Wash after gardening.
Protect helpful insects	Bees and butterflies help pollinate flowers.
Use chemicals carefully	Pesticides are for adults only, and only when needed. Follow label directions.

Quick Check

Tick ✓) the helpful actions:

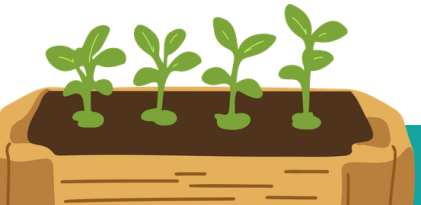
(▪ Use healthy seeds.

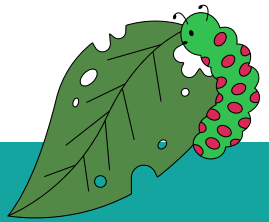
▪ Harm every insect.

▪ Check leaves regularly.

▪ Let children spray chemicals.

▪ Care for plants properly.





5. What is a weed?

A weed is a plant growing where it is not wanted. Weeds may grow among crops, in gardens, paths or lawns.

Weeds may make it harder for crops to grow.

6. What do weeds compete for?

Weeds and crops need resources to grow. When weeds grow close to crops, they may compete for:

WATER | **SUNLIGHT** | **SPACE** | **NUTRIENTS**

7. How can we remove weeds?

- Pull small weeds carefully, including roots when possible.
- Loosen soil with a garden tool only with adult supervision.
- Remove weeds before they spread seeds.
- Put weeds in the compost or waste area as an adult directs.

Ask an adult before using tools. Never touch unknown plants.

Think & Write

Why should weeds be removed from around vegetables?



GARDEN GUARDIAN PRACTICE

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A. Choose the best answer

1. A pest can…

a) harm plants b) water plants c) make soil

2. Plant disease may cause…

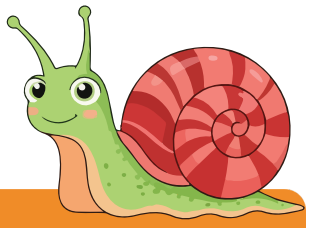
a) spots or wilting b) new pots c) sunlight

3. A weed is…

a) a wanted crop b) a plant in the wrong place c) a seed

4. Weeds compete for…

a) toys b) water, light, space and nutrients c) shoes



B. Fill in the blanks

5. Pests may chew plant _____.

6. Bees help pollinate _____.

7. Weeds compete for water, light, space and _____.

8. Only _____ should use garden chemicals.

C. Match the problem to the clue

Pest → _____ (eats a leaf)

Disease → _____ (spots or wilting)

Weed → _____ (grows where unwanted)



D. Short answers

9. Write one way to protect a plant: