

Vegetable Gardening

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&**

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Planning

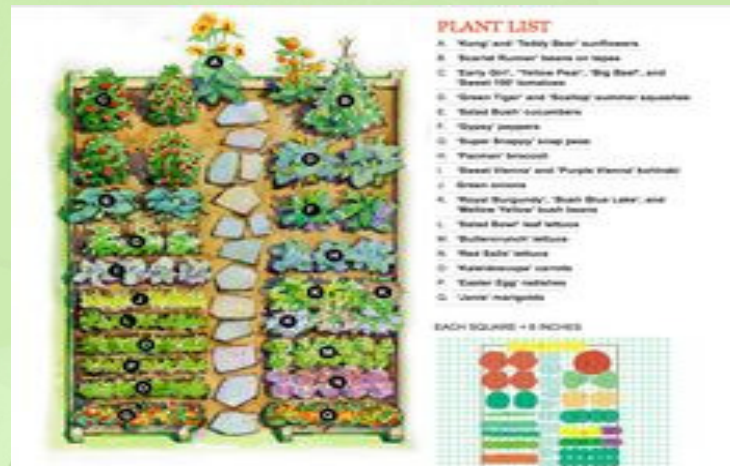
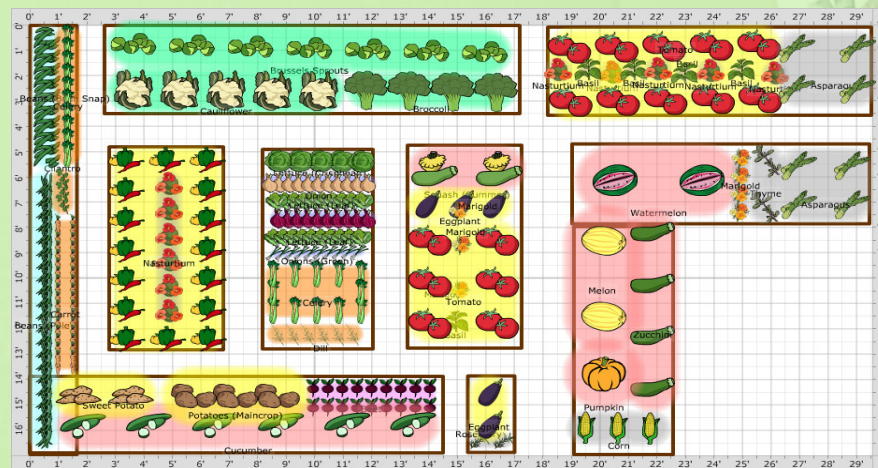
- Plan before you plant –Plant what you like to eat!!!
- Make a plan on paper. Considerations include:
- Seasonality.
- Space available/space required per plant.
- Tallest things should be on the north side of the garden.
- Decide whether to grow from seed or buy transplants.
- Try to choose varieties with disease resistance.



Garden Plans



PLANT SPACING			
Extra Large 1 Plant Placed 12 inches apart:	Large 4 Plants Placed 6 inches apart:	Medium 9 Plants Placed 4 inches apart:	Small 16 Plants Placed 3 inches apart:
 Broccoli	 Leaf Lettuce	 Bush Bean	 Carrot
 Cabbage	 Swiss Chard	 Spinach	 Radish
 Pepper	 Marigold	 Beet	 Onion





Planting

- Try to plant on a cloudy day.
- Consider soil temperature.
- Dig a hole, put in plant, fill with soil and water well.
- Label everything with ID and date.
- Trenching tomatoes.
- Succession planting.
- Companion planting.
- Vertical gardening.
- Crop rotation.



Soil



- Soil testing is always recommended to know what nutrients or micro-nutrients may be depleted or in excess..
- Because this is a new garden, with new soil, don't be too disappointed in the first year.
- We generally don't use much fertilizer, if any.
- Don't work when the soil is wet – it will destroy the soil structure.





Watering



- Water the roots, not the leaves.
- Water thoroughly, infrequently.
- Plants need 1" of water a week, unless drought.
- Drip irrigation is best.
- Early morning is best.
- Consider the water requirements of plants you choose
- It has been said that plants that experience some stress are hardier???





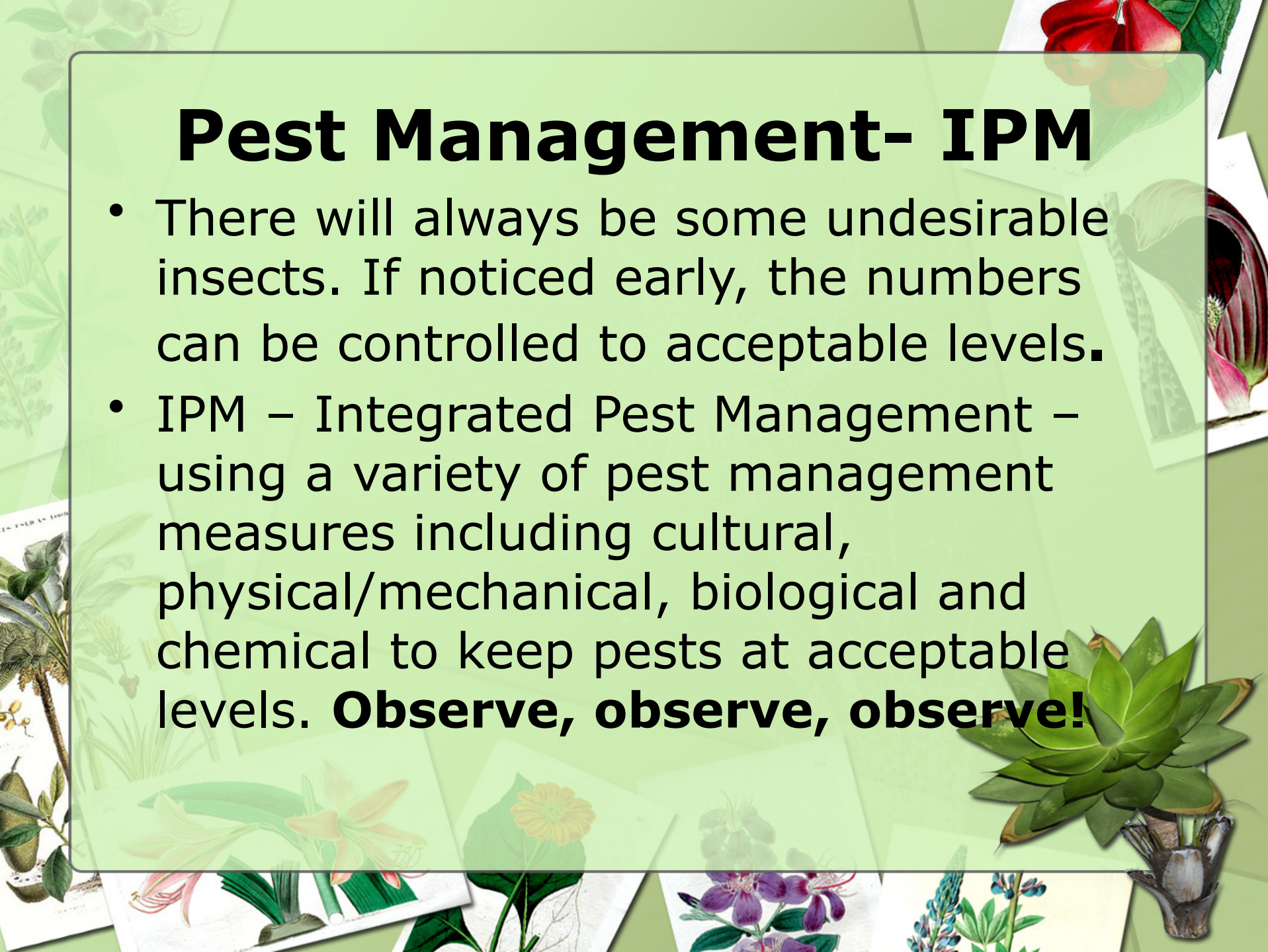
Weeding

- What is a weed, anyway? Why are they bad?
- Get them when they are small.
- Never let them go to seed.
- Use weed cloth/landscape fabric.
- Use mulch.
- Pull by hand or cultivate.
- Planting close together leaves less room for weeds.



Pest Management- IPM

- There will always be some undesirable insects. If noticed early, the numbers can be controlled to acceptable levels.
- IPM – Integrated Pest Management – using a variety of pest management measures including cultural, physical/mechanical, biological and chemical to keep pests at acceptable levels. **Observe, observe, observe!**



IPM

- Cultural
- Physical
- Biological
- Chemical





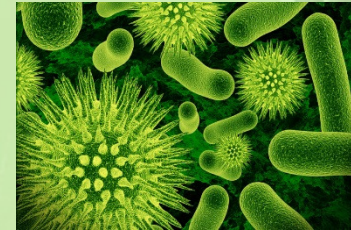
Pest Management

- Companion planting
- Physical barriers
- Good insects

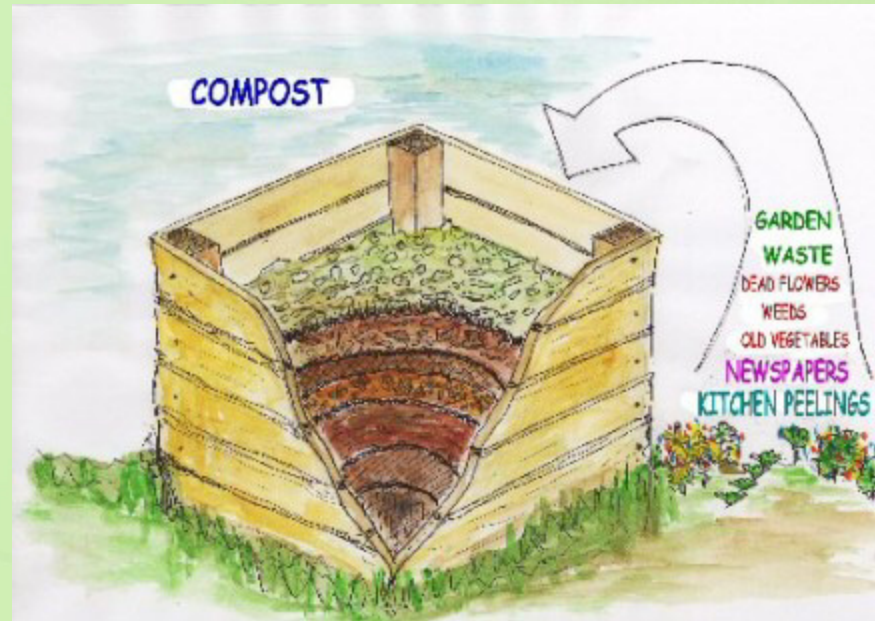


Disease Management

- IPM – Integrated Pest Management.
- Good sanitation is key.
- Always clean up and remove any vegetative debris.
- Make sure your tools are clean.
- Proper spacing.
- Good watering practices
- Choose plants with disease resistance (look on seed packets)
- Know your source for plants.



Composting





Resources

- Master Gardener Helpline.
- Classes at Rutgers.
- Garden Club lectures.
- When looking for information on the computer, type your search word followed by "x extension".
- Square Foot Gardening books.
- Park's Success with Seeds.
- Johnnyseeds.com.

