

Glossary

Abdomen: In insects, the last segment of the body.

Aphid: A small green insect that sucks the liquid out of plants with its proboscis (mouth).

Beneficial: Helpful.

Biodegradable: Capable of breaking down or decomposing in the environment.

Biological Control: The use of natural enemies and biotechnology (including predators, parasites, pathogens, competitors) to contain or control pests.

Bug: An insect with a sucking mouth part, belonging to the “True Bug Family.”

Chemical: A combination of elements such as carbon, hydrogen or oxygen; can be natural or manufactured; everything is made of chemicals.

Control: To restrain or regulate.

Disease: Any disturbance that interferes with a plant’s normal structure, function, or economic value.

Ecosystem: The network of living and non-living things in a particular community, which includes plants, animals, microbes, soil, and air.

Entomology: The branch of zoology that studies insects.

Environment: The surroundings of a particular organism.

Eradicate: To rid of completely.

Fungicide: A chemical used to destroy fungi such as molds and mildew.

Fungus: A group of decomposers that lack chlorophyll; they reproduce with spores; examples include mold, mildew, and mushrooms.

Glassy-winged Sharpshooter: A flying insect almost ½ inch long that got its name because it has large transparent wings with reddish veins; excretes a watery substance; a potential carrier of the bacterium that causes Pierce’s disease.

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Habitat: The region or area where a plant or animal naturally lives.

Harmful: Causing injury or damage.

Head: The top portion of an insect's body that contains the head, antennae, and other sensory organs.

Herbicide: A chemical that kills plants.

Host: An organism which provides nourishment or shelter for a parasite.

Insect: An air-breathing animal which has a distinct head, thorax, abdomen, and three pairs of legs.

Insecticidal Soap: A soap used to kill insects.

Insecticide: A chemical used to destroy insects.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM): An ecological and scientific approach to long-term pest suppression that utilizes multiple disciplines and a combination of controls, such as beneficial insects, cultural practices, mechanical devices, and chemical inputs.

Larva: An immature insect that hatches from an egg and passes through a pupal stage before becoming an adult, such as a caterpillar or maggot.

Lygus Bug: A specific insect with sucking mouth parts which feeds on plants such as weeds, strawberry plants, and lettuce.

Manage: To control within reason.

Mediterranean Fruit Fly: A specific fly that deposits its eggs into ripe or ripening fruit.

Mite: In the spider or tick class, arachnid, usually small (1 to 3 mm long) with eight legs.

Natural Enemies: The organisms that prey on or compete with other organisms, thereby limiting its population. Certain natural enemies are also known as beneficial insects.

Nymph: A young developmental stage of an insect.

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Organism: Any living thing, including plants, animals, fungi, bacteria, viruses, and protozoa.

Parasite: An organism that harms others while benefits itself.

Pathogen: Any disease-producing organism.

Pest: Any organism that is destructive to animals, cultivated plants, stored food, etc.

Pest Management: Various methods used to control pests.

Pesticide: A chemical used to destroy unwanted organisms such as insects, weeds, and rodents.

Pheromone: A substance secreted by an organism that affects the behavior or development of other organisms of the same species.

Pierce's Disease: A disease caused by a bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*. This bacteria enters the plant stem and continues to grow and eventually chokes the plant's water and nutrient transport system and causes the plant to die.

Predator: An animal which kills other animals for food. Some insects are predators.

Proboscis: An elongated mouth part of certain insects used for sucking.

Pupa: A non-feeding, inactive stage in which the tissues of an insect larva are reorganized into those of an adult.

Red Imported Fire Ant: A reddish brown social insect, not native to the United States, that can give a burning sting from the stinger on its abdomen. They have an extremely aggressive behavior and produce mounds of soft, crumbly soil that contain their colonies.

Rodent: A mammal with strong front teeth used for gnawing.

Rodenticide: A chemical used to destroy rodents.

Shelter: Something that serves as a barrier or shield against attack, danger, or weather.

Slug: A small, slimy animal related to the snail, but without a shell.

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Snail: A soft-bodied animal, a mollusk, with a shell that can enclose its whole body.

Spider: An arachnid; has two main body parts and eight legs.

Survival: To continue to live or exist.

Thorax: The middle body region of an insect to which legs and wings are attached.

Toxic: Poisonous.

Trap: A devise for trapping and holding animals.

Weed: A plant growing where it is not wanted.