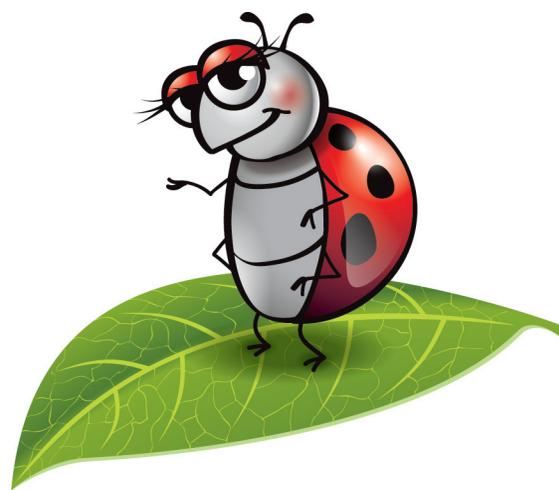


Newmarket is Proud to be Pesticide Free



Organic Pest Control

On September 1, 2008, Newmarket will officially be pesticide free. Use these handy tips to help keep the following pesky pests from invading your lawn or garden!

Pest / Problem	Description	Solution
Aphids <i>Small, pear-shaped insects, usually light green in colour.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suck the sap from plants and cause leaves to curl and wither. Secrete a substance called honeydew, a fungus that causes leaves to turn black. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spray aphids off plants using strong streams of water. Use an insecticidal soap to kill infestations. Use dormant oil in the fall to kill eggs. Use ladybugs, a common aphid predator, to help control mild infestations.
Cutworms <i>The larvae of various moth species. They resemble fat, hairless caterpillars and hide in the soil at the base of plants.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chew through plant or vegetable stems at or just below the soil surface. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove by hand from plants, or use plastic or cardboard "collars" around the base of plant stems to keep them away. Use crushed egg shells, sprinkled around plants to kill cutworms. Use nematodes, beneficial microscopic worms.
Earwigs <i>Long, nocturnal, hard-shelled, brown beetles, with pincers in the rear.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cause damage to plants by chewing holes in leaves and stems (only when an excess of them exist in an ecological system.) Normally feed on decayed plant matter and aphids. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trap by placing a 6 to 10 inch garden hose or tube on the ground overnight. Earwigs will congregate inside the tube. Clean out the tube in the morning with soapy water to drown them.
Grubs <i>The larvae of Japanese and June Beetles, Chafers, and other common beetles. Live just under the soil surface as whitish C-shaped worms with yellow or brown heads.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destroy grass by eating the roots and leaving damaged turf with a spongy feel and irregular patches of brown. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm grubs by peeling up patches of sod in areas of your lawn. Sod that lifts easily indicates grub damage and infestation. Rake away loose, dead turf and aerate soil to bring grubs to the surface for predators to eat. Check local lawn and garden centres for nematodes, beneficial worms parasitic to grubs. Ensure soil is healthy and active and grass is thick to make ground more grub resistant.
Scale <i>Small, oval insects usually brown or gray in colour.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suck out plant juices, causing leaves & stems to fall off. Can kill entire branches or plants. Secrete honeydew leaving behind a black residue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dormant oil applied in the late winter can kill hibernating adults. Use insecticidal soap in the spring or early summer to kill during the immature stage.
Slugs or Snails <i>Soft, slime-covered mollusks. Snails usually have a harder shell covering over top.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chew holes in plants or vegetables. Usually leave a trail of slime behind making them easy to identify. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread diatomaceous earth (gritty soil with a fine, white, crystalline powder in it) around susceptible plants. Place copper or zinc strips around the edges of growing beds. Use inorganic mulch in areas where slugs are a serious problem.
Thrips <i>Tiny, flying, sucking insects usually a dark colour like brown, black or red.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distort flowers or fruit and leave a silver residue on leaves. Cut slits into stems and leaves to lay their eggs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prune off leaves and stems with damage to prevent infestations. Use insecticidal soap on regular plants and dormant oil on vegetable and fruit plants to kill them.
Weeds <i>Vegetation that is noxious, a nuisance, or dangerous to either humans or other plants.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple kinds of weeds exist across Ontario. The most common ones are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canada - Thistle - Clover - Quackgrass - Crabgrass - Purslane - Dandelion - Plantain - Ground Ivy - Oxalis - Knotweed - Violets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pull weeds out by hand when the ground is moist. Remove weeds at the root with a hoe. Use a 20 per cent acetic acid solution to kill weeds (beware this may kill good plants as well). Use a homemade all-purpose weed killer by boiling 1 litre of water, 2 tablespoons of salt and 5 tablespoons of vinegar. Spray directly on weeds while still hot. Use a corn-gluten product to prevent weeds from growing back (does not kill weeds that are already established). For large infestations, contact a local home and garden centre that practices proper Integrated Pest Management techniques.

Visit www.newmarket.ca to learn more about the pesticide bylaw and how to combat insects with organic items and products found in your home.



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