

Buyer's Guide / Insecticides



Best ways to zap persistent pests!

Geoff Hodge looks at the insecticides available to give you a fighting chance against unwanted creepy crawlies

INSECT pests are one of the gardener's biggest enemies. They make plants look unsightly, eat their leaves and buds or suck their sap, cover them in their excretions and are generally a pain in the garden.

Nearly all insect pests can be killed, or at least severely put off eating your prize plants, by spraying with an insecticide. Almost every one will be effective on nearly every pest - but some insects are more difficult to control than others: whitefly that have built up a resistance to a specific active ingredient; the tiny

red spider mites; scale insects with their hard shell-like covering; and mealybugs and woolly aphids with their cotton-wool-like protective covering, for instance.

Contact vs systemic

Insecticides can be divided into two types. 'Contact only' kill the actual insects they hit or come into contact with. They usually aren't effective for very long after they've been applied and may have to be applied regularly - possibly weekly or more often - for severe infestations. Systemic usually kill on contact, too, but are also

taken inside the plant where they offer all-round protection against future attack for anything up to three months.

The vast majority of contact insecticides are based on naturally occurring chemicals and so are regarded as being organic. These organic insecticides can usually be used on fruit and vegetables.

Systemic insecticides, on the other hand, may or may not have approval for use on edible crops, and some only have approval on certain crops. Always check which insecticides can be used on which plants and crops before you use them.

Formats

RTU (ready-to-use) guns mean no mixing or messing about and they're ready to use when you need them. They're perfect for treating individual plants and small infestations, but for large gardens or allotments with a lot of susceptible plants, a concentrate will work out more economical.

Systemic insecticides

Bayer Garden Provado Ultimate Bug Killer
For use on all ornamental plants and listed fruit, vegetables and herbs.
Format RTU & concentrate
Active ingredient thiacloprid
Protects up to six weeks
Size RTU: 1-litre, 3-litre; concentrate: 400ml, makes up to 27-litres
Price guide 1-litre £4, 3-litre £12.99, 400ml £7.99
Concentrate cost per litre 29.6p



WORKS ON A NUMBER OF PESTS AND MOST PLANTS, INCLUDING VEG



Bayer Garden Provado Ultimate Bug Killer Aerosol
For use on container-grown ornamental plants.
Format aerosol
Active ingredient methiocarb & imidacloprid
Protects for up to four weeks
Size 400ml
Price guide £5.29

Scotts Miracle-Gro BugClear Ultra
For use on all ornamental plants.
Format RTU & concentrate
Active ingredient acetamiprid
Protects up to three weeks
Size RTU: 750ml; concentrate: 200ml, makes up to 20-litres
Price guide RTU £4.15, 200ml £7.27
Concentrate cost per litre 36.4p



Westland Plant Rescue Bug Killer

£4.99 - £7.99

For use on all ornamental plants. Added leaf feed.
Format RTU & concentrate
Active ingredient RTU: thiamethoxam & abamectin; concentrate: thiamethoxam
Protects up to 12 weeks
Size RTU: 750ml; concentrate: 2x100ml, makes 20-40-litres, depending on pest.
Price guide RTU £4.99, 2x100ml £7.99
Concentrate cost per litre 20-40p



GOOD VALUE WITH ADDED FEED FOR ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

GN TOP TIP
Always follow the instructions on the label and never be tempted to add extra pesticide to the mix

Organic contact insecticides

Scotts Miracle-Gro BugClear for Fruit & Veg
For use on all ornamental plants, fruit and vegetables.
Format RTU & concentrate
Active ingredient RTU: pyrethrins; concentrate: rape seed oil
Size RTU: 750ml; concentrate: 250ml, makes 12.5-litres
Price guide RTU £4.15, 250ml £6.23
Concentrate cost per litre 49.8p



Bayer Garden Organic Bug Free
For use on all ornamental plants and selected fruit and vegetables.
Format RTU
Active ingredient natural fatty acids
Size 1-litre
Price guide £3.49



Bayer Garden Organic Pest Control
For use on all ornamental plants and selected fruit and vegetables.
Format RTU
Active ingredient natural fatty acids
Size 1-litre
Price guide £4.69



Doff Greenfly & Blackfly Killer
For use on ornamental plants.
Format RTU
Active ingredient natural fatty acids
Size 1-litre
Price guide £4.99



Doff All-in-One Bug Spray
For use on ornamental plants, fruit and vegetables.
Format RTU
Active ingredient pyrethrins
Size 1-litre
Price guide £4.99



Doff Organic Pest Spray
For use on ornamental plants.
Format RTU
Active ingredient natural fatty acids
Size 1-litre
Price guide £4.99



Westland Earth Matters Natural Insect Killer
For use on all ornamental plants, fruit and vegetables.
Format RTU
Active ingredient pyrethrin
Size 1-litre
Price guide £3.99



Vitax Py Garden Insect Killer & Py Powder
For use on all ornamental plants, fruit and vegetables.
Format RTU & concentrate; dust
Active ingredient pyrethrum
Size RTU: 750ml; concentrate: 250ml, makes up to 25-litres, depending on use; dust: 175g
Price guide RTU £5.37, 250ml £8.81, dust £3.41
Concentrate cost per litre: 35.2p



Wilko Multi-Purpose Bug Killer
For use on all ornamental plants, fruit and vegetables.
Format: RTU
Active ingredient pyrethrins
Size 1-litre
Price guide £1.98

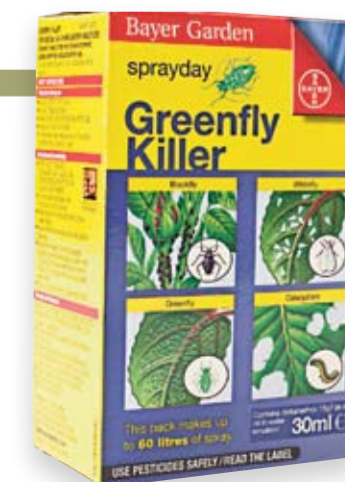


Synthetic contact insecticides

Westland Plant Rescue Fruit & Vegetable Bug Killer
For use on all ornamental plants and listed fruit and vegetables.
Format RTU & concentrate
Active ingredient lambda-cyhalothrin
Protects up to two weeks
Size RTU: 750ml; concentrate: 2x100ml, makes 10-litres
Price guide RTU £4.99, 2x100ml £7.99
Concentrate cost per litre 80p



Bayer Garden Sprayday Greenfly Killer
For use on all ornamental plants and listed fruit and vegetables.
Format concentrate
Active ingredient deltamethrin
Protects up to 3 weeks
Size 30ml, makes up to 60-litres
Price guide £5.99
Concentrate cost per litre 1.0p



Suppliers

- Bayer Garden 0845 345 4100 www.bayergarden.co.uk
- Doff Portland 0115 983 4300 www.doff.co.uk
- Scotts Miracle-Gro 0845 190 1881 www.lovethegarden.com
- Vitax 01530 510060 www.vitax.co.uk
- Westland Horticulture 0870 063 3566 www.gardenhealth.com
- Wilko 0800 032 9329 www.wilkinsonplus.com

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Containers
Mix some fruit into your pots for tasty and pretty results **Page 18**

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Other systemic weedkillers

🌀 Bayer Garden Long Lasting Ground Clear **BEST FOR LONG-TERM CONTROL**

Systemic and residual (soil-acting) weedkiller used to clear overgrown areas of the garden and around woody ornamental shrubs and trees. Also prevents weeds growing for up to four months.

Test Most weeds died or were dying within 10-14 days.

Format concentrate

Active ingredient Glyphosate, flufenacet & metosulam

Size 3 sachets (treats up to 30sq m/36sq yd), 6 sachets, 12 sachets

Price guide 3 sachets £4.99, 6 sachets £7.99, 12 sachets £15.99

Minimum cost per sq m 13.3p

🌀 Vitax SBK Brushwood Killer

A selective weedkiller for tough and woody weeds in non-planted areas. Does not control grasses.

Test The weeds died or were dying within 10 days.

Format RTU & concentrate

Active ingredient Triclopyr

Size RTU: 750ml; concentrate: 125ml (treats up to 42sq m/50sq yd), 250ml, 500ml, 1-litre

Price guide RTU £6.11, 125ml £5.12, 250ml £7.73, 500ml £11.62, 1-litre £19.92

Minimum cost per sq m 5.9p

Contact weedkillers

Apart from Scotts Weedol 2 and Wilko Fast Acting Weedkiller, these weedkillers contain naturally occurring ingredients, so can be regarded as 'natural' or 'organic'. They were tested on mostly annual weeds.

🌀 Scotts Miracle-Gro Weedol 2

Test The weeds died within three days.

Format Concentrate

Active ingredient Diquat

Size RTU: 3 sachet (treats up to 90sq m/108sq yd), 6 sachet, 12 sachet, 18 sachet

Price guide 3 sachet £4.99, 6 sachet £8.99, 12 sachet £15.99, 18 sachet £20.99

Minimum cost per sq m 3.9p

🌀 Bayer Garden 3 Hour Weedkiller

Test The weeds died within two to three hours.

Format RTU

Active ingredient Natural fatty acids

Size RTU: 1-litre

Price guide £4.99

🌀 Doff Fast-Acting Natural Weed Spray

Test: the weeds died within two days.

Format: RTU

Active ingredient: acetic acid

Size: 750ml

Price guide: £4.99

🌀 Scotts Miracle-Gro Weedol Max

Test The weeds died within two to three hours.

Format RTU & concentrate

Active ingredient Pelargonic acid

Size RTU: 1-litre, 3-litre, 5-litre; concentrate: 500ml (treats up to 30sq m/36sq yd), 1-litre

Price guide RTU: 1-litre £4.99, 3-litre £12.99, 5-litre £21.99; concentrate: 500ml £5.99, 1-litre £10.99

Minimum cost per sq m 18.3p

🌀 Westland Earth Matters Natural Weed Killer

Test The weeds died within two to three hours.

Format RTU

Active ingredient Pelargonic acid

Size 1-litre.

Price guide £3.99

🌀 Vitax Finalsan Ultima

Test The weeds died within two to three hours.

Format RTU & concentrate

Active ingredient Pelargonic acid & maleic hydrazide

Size RTU: 750ml; concentrate: 250ml (treats up to 15sq m/18sq yd)

Price guide RTU £6.11, 250ml £10.21

Cost per sq m 68p

🌀 Wilko Fast Acting Weedkiller

Test The weeds died within three days.

Format RTU

Active ingredient Fatty acids and glufosinate-ammonium

Size 1-litre

Price guide £2.97

🌀 Westland Resolva Total Clear

Format Concentrate

Size 200ml (treats up to 500sq m/600sq yd)

Price guide £11.99

Cost per sq m 2.4p

🌀 Westland Weed Buster

Format RTU

Size 1-litre

Price guide £3.99