



Unit 9 Plant Protection

* Glossary

Purpose: motivation

Bird stand: a device placed outdoors to supply food for birds

The benefits of organic pesticides

Our world is full of organisms like insects, bugs, butterflies, spiders, mites etc. All of these have an important **purpose** in our environment. Some help in the pollination of plants, some help to kill harmful germs and microorganisms and some even protect us from more harmful diseases.

Even though science has improved, today we still do not know what beneficial characteristics might be hidden within some of these organisms. For instance, did you know that spiders kill a lot of insects and thus protect our crops from harm that might be done by them. What happens if the ecological balance is damaged because some of those creatures have been driven out?

The main aspect to keep in mind is that every is every single creature on this earth has a purpose. They protect nature and the ecosystem. So before using pesticides you must consider the damage they can cause. Remember that there are other helpful animals who work for you. For instance, keep a **bird stand** in the garden. Birds will come and eat harmful insects for you. Keep your garden clean, so that, fewer diseases or pests will attack your plants.

There are many ways to keep your garden safe from pests without killing them. In some cases if needed, you can use organic pesticides on your plants.

Organic pesticides are 100 times safer than chemicals. Chemical pesticides will destroy pests, but they can also be harmful to you. Another thing to remember is that chemical pesticides are basically poisons, which is completely unsafe for our health and for the environment. They also cause mutations in insect bodies, which makes them pesticide resistant. That is why today the same insecticide or pesticide does not always work as effectively as it once did.

Chemicals can destroy our environment. The higher the dose of pesticides used the more damage it does to our bodies. This is why it is better to use organic pesticides instead of chemical pesticides.

(Adapted from: *Homemade Pesticides*, Ninety Nine Cents Press, 2016)





Understanding the text

1. Read the text and translate the following terms. Use the dictionary if necessary.

- 1. Purpose:
- 2. Environment:
- 3. Disease:
- 4. Earth:
- 5. Pest:
- 6. Poison:

2. Find six verbs in the text related to pesticides.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

3. Tick the sentences that best express the ideas contained in the text.

- 1. We must be aware that many insects and other similar organisms are beneficial to the environment. However, they can cause great damage and the use of chemical pesticides is an unavoidable aspect of farming or gardening.
- 2. Chemical pesticides improve crop quality and prevent diseases found in fruit and vegetables. All chemical pesticides go through a series of tests before being released on the market. Therefore they are not as harmful as many believe.
- 3. It is important to remember that every creature on earth performs a specific function. For instance, they play a key role in the food chain. They can also provide help in pest control.
- 4. Chemical pesticides are very hazardous to the environment and to our health as well. Organic pesticides may provide a viable solution. In fact organic pesticides are much safer and more economical than chemical pesticides.
- 5. It has been scientifically demonstrated that certain chemicals used in pesticides may cause genetic mutations.