



STEP 1: WHAT DO YOU SEE?

- Leaves curling/crumpling
- Holes in leaves
- White cotton clusters
- Sticky residue
- Yellow speckles/dust
- Flies jump when touched

STEP 2: MATCH THE PEST

Aphids

Soft green/black insects, sticky residue, on new growth
Chilli, tomato, leafy greens

Whiteflies

Tiny white flies on leaf underside, fly up when disturbed
Tomato, brinjal, cucurbits

Mealybugs

White cottony masses, ants around plant, stunted growth
Hibiscus, chilli, curry leaf

Spider Mites

Fine webs, yellow speckles, leaves dry & brittle
Beans, cucumber, roses

Caterpillars

Big holes in leaves, black droppings, chewed edges
Cabbage, tomato, spinach

Thrips

Silvery streaks, deformed flowers, tiny fast-moving insects
Onion, chilli, flowers

STEP 3: ROOT CAUSE CHECK

Tick honestly. If 2+ apply, pests are a symptom, not the disease.

Overwatering	No drainage	Too much N
Crowded	No airflow	No neem spray

STEP 4: QUICK RESPONSE

Pest	First Action
Aphids	Water spray + neem oil
Whiteflies	Yellow sticky traps + neem
Mealybugs	Alcohol swab + neem
Spider mites	Increase humidity + neem
Caterpillars	Hand-pick + Bt spray
Thrips	Neem + blue traps
Soil pests	Dry soil + repot

COMMON MYTH

"Organic gardening means no pests." Wrong. It means controlled pests. Zero pests = fake or poisoned system.