



BEST NATIVE PLANTS FOR NATURAL PEST CONTROL IN MINNESOTA



Using Landscaping to Protect Your Home from Pests. Landscaping isn't just about beauty—it can also be a natural tool for pest prevention. Certain native Minnesota plants repel insects and wildlife, reduce the need for chemicals, and create a healthier yard ecosystem.

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How Native Plants Help With Pest Control

- Repel insects naturally: Some plants produce scents or oils that pests avoid.
- Attract beneficial insects: Ladybugs, lacewings, and other predators feed on common pests.
- Reduce shelter for rodents: Low-maintenance, well-spaced plants make it harder for animals to nest near your home.
- Support biodiversity: Healthy yards with native plants naturally balance pests and predators.

Recommended Native Plants for Pest Control in Minnesota

Plant Name	Type	Benefits	Placement Tips
Lavender (<i>Lavandula</i> spp.)	Perennial	Repels mosquitoes, moths, and flies	Plant near doors, windows, and patios
Bee Balm (<i>Monarda</i> spp.)	Perennial	Attracts pollinators and predatory insects	Near garden beds or vegetable gardens
Catnip (<i>Nepeta cataria</i>)	Perennial	Repels mosquitoes and some insects	Plant in borders or containers; avoid near pets that may overindulge
Marigold (<i>Tagetes</i> spp.)	Annual	Repels nematodes, aphids, and mosquitoes	Plant around vegetable gardens or flower beds
Allium (Ornamental onion)	Perennial	Repels rabbits, deer, and insects	Edge plantings, around shrubs, or near garden beds
Goldenrod (<i>Solidago</i> spp.)	Perennial	Attracts beneficial insects	Open sunny areas, away from dense structures
Yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolium</i>)	Perennial	Attracts lacewings and ladybugs	Sunny borders and garden edges
Thyme (<i>Thymus</i> spp.)	Perennial	Repels mosquitoes and flies	Groundcover near entrances or patios

Landscaping Tips for Maximum Effect

- Use plants strategically: Place pest-repelling plants near doors, windows, patios, and vegetable gardens.
- Combine with habitat plants: Mix repellent plants with native flowers that attract beneficial insects.
- Maintain spacing: Avoid dense plantings right next to the home, which can provide shelter for rodents and wildlife.
- Rotate and diversify: Diverse plantings reduce pest pressure and attract a variety of natural predators.
- Keep plants healthy: Water and prune regularly to prevent disease, which can attract unwanted pests.

The Takeaway

Incorporating native plants into your yard is a natural, sustainable, and effective pest control strategy. These plants complement professional pest prevention efforts and help Minnesota homeowners maintain healthier, pest-resistant landscapes year-round.