



Gardens are full of tasty treats, and not just for us. Bugs, birds, mammals, and others love to munch on our hard-earned garden produce. How can we safely discourage garden thievery? Here are a few ideas to try!

Garden Soundscapes: Birds and mammals startle easily, and unexpected noises or sudden movements may be enough to make them stay away. Try creating a musical, moveable sculpture to add to your garden. A collection of beautiful junk and recyclables can make both lovely decoration and garden guard.

Suggested materials:

- Foil trays and tins
- Balls of aluminum foil
- Old keys or silverware
- Metal hardware like bolts, nuts, brackets and cabinet handles
- Yarn or ribbon
- CD's or DVD's
- Tinsel or other metallic ribbon
- Sticks or metal rods
- Coat hangers or wire
- Shiny bits of metal that may reflect sunlight

Make your own plant-safe spray: For smaller pests like bugs, it's all about smell and taste. Try mixing some of these ingredients with water in a spray bottle. It's all food safe, and non-toxic, but bugs sure don't enjoy it!

Suggested ingredients:

- Natural dish soap (not detergent)
- Chopped garlic or onion
- Chili or cayenne powder/fresh chopped
- Citronella leaves
- Vinegar

Other ways to protect your plants: For persistent problems, here are a few more ideas.

- Use physical barriers like covers for young plants, fencing or netting for mature berry plants.
- Use companion plantings and 'repellent plants' like marigold, lavender, chive or mint.
- Introduce beneficial insects like ladybugs or white wasps.
- Use Neem oil, created from plants.