Managing Insect Pests Responsibly

Today on Gardening in a Minute: managing insect pests responsibly.

Pesticides are not always as necessary as people believe. Healthy plants can often defend against or tolerate pest attacks. And beneficial insects, birds, and other natural controls can help suppress pest insects.

To minimize problems, choose healthy, pest-resistant plants for your landscape, and use them in the right place.

Scout your landscape often to detect pest problems early. If you do notice damage, see if you can find the culprit, and you may be able to remove larger insects by hand. Use local resources like your county extension office to correctly identify pests.

If you must use a pesticide, try insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, and and other low-toxicity products like BT. Remember to only treat the affected plants, and follow all label instructions.

For more information about Florida-friendly landscaping practices, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

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