

# Nematode Management

## Home Gardens

Root-knot and reniform nematodes cause problems on many vegetables grown in the home garden. Cultural practices and resistant varieties can help reduce the amount of damage in the garden.

### **Cultural Practices**

1. Plant early before nematodes become active in soil.
2. Rotate crops in the garden.
3. Rotate the location of the garden each year.
4. Add organic matter to the soil in the form of green manures, compost, or mulches to stimulate natural enemies of nematodes and improve growing conditions within the soil for plants.
5. Use fallow plowing during parts of the summer to reduce nematode levels.
6. Keep the garden clean of weeds and grasses, which often serve as natural hosts for nematodes.
7. Keep soil fertility levels high and have the soil pH in the correct range for your soil type.
8. Provide extra water during prolonged dry periods.
9. Remove crops immediately after they are finished producing, especially the roots.
10. Most of the marigolds (except Signet types) are effective trap crops against root-knot nematodes. Plant the marigolds solid for at least two to three months and then plant vegetables.

### **Resistant Varieties or Crops**

- Root-knot nematode resistant varieties include:
  - **Tomatoes**
    - *Vine types*: Big Beef, Champion, Terrific, Better Boy, Mountain Fresh Plus.
    - *Bush types*: Celebrity, Crista, Fresh Plus, Sanibel.
    - *Others*: Muriel Roma, Small Fry.
  - **Southern Peas** - Mississippi Silver and Mississippi Purple.
- Reniform nematode-resistant crops include broccoli, cauliflower, corn, okra, onion, peanut, radish, and turnip.

The nematode section for home gardens was revised October 2022 by T. Watson.