

Week 3: Maintaining and Protecting the plants

OBJECTIVES:

- Identify the symptoms of an overwatered and underwatered plant
- Make an organic pesticide
- Discuss the appropriate ways to use pesticide

INTRODUCTION

- Have students read trail reports for week 3
- Explain that there are 2 common areas that can be problematic for maintaining plants- watering and pests
- Explain how they handle watering and pest control is dependent on the type of garden they have decided to grow- indoor vs. patio/square foot

ACTIVITY:

Set up 2 stations with instruction cards at each station prior to class and divide class in two groups that will rotate- then you can circulate between them as needed.

STATION 1

- Have 3 pictures of plants that have been labeled

OVERWATERED

(<https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-0WPzHphJ9Ko/TY3yDOGC4CI/AAAAAAAAAWo/N33xev5-CWI/s1600/DSC01458.JPG> or <http://www.stevegarufi.com/plants2.jpg>)

UNDERWATERED

(<http://henryhomeyer.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/ivy-killed-by-under-watering1.jpg> or http://lh6.ggpht.com/_RPgH1qS55c/S_H61ejuRI/AAAAAAAAADnl/vK7V6pAcckA/DSC00957.JPG)

APPROPRIATELY WATERED

http://img.hgtv.com/HGTV/2010/10/27/RX-DK-HTG26004_3-plant-chard_s3x4_lg.jpg

- Using prior knowledge, current experience with their own plants, and the pictures, students try to identify characteristics that may indicate the problem from the pictures in pairs and then come together to discuss what they observed or as a group, depending on size.
- Flip the pictures over for a list of symptoms for each type of watering and students can compare their answers to the answers on the back of the picture
- Then have students look at actual plants and determine what the problem is

*this requires preparation on the part of the teacher: 2 weeks prior to the class begin overwatering and under watering a plant for each category to show how different plants present the problem

- Summarize what the signs/characteristics of an overwatered, underwatered and well-watered plant are.

OR

Watch the video on watering properly (<http://www.videojug.com/film/how-to-properly-water-your-plants>)

STATION 2:

Putting an end to pests

- Read first two paragraphs on using soap-based pesticides/repellants-
<http://www.essortment.com/insect-repellant-tips-making-homemade-insecticidal-soap-51603.html>
- Use the ingredients to make your own pesticide
 - NEED
 - mini spray bottles (ask students to bring their own and have some extra for those who forgot)
 - Dishsoap
 - Vegetable oil
 - Gallon milk jugs (ask students to bring their own and have some extra for those who forgot)
 - Tablespoons and teaspoons (ask students to bring their own and have some extra for those who forgot)
 - On a notecard have the RECIPE:
 - 1 gallon of water
 - 1 tsp of dishsoap
 - 2 tbsp oil
 - Mix and spray!
- Watch video on how to apply pesticide to plants
http://www.ehow.com/video_7953905_apply-organic-pesticide.html
- Read about over-applying pesticide and pesticide burn
<http://plantdiagnostics.umd.edu/level3.cfm?causeID=293>
- Ask them to go on the online environment to share in the forum what they learned and how it will change how they water and apply pesticide to their garden.

Optional Meet-up this week – Online Chat with Master Gardener