



## Dealing with pests and diseases

### *Powdery mildew*

A fungal disease that can spread very quickly, especially in areas with low air circulation. It weakens plants by slowing down photosynthesis and mostly affects young leaves. It most commonly infects squash, cucumbers, zucchini, and other members of the cucurbit family. Here are some ways to treat it:

- Improve air circulation by pruning plants
- Don't water plants from above
- Spray a solution of milk and water on the plants every 10 days (1 part milk to 2-3 parts water)
- Purchase cultivars with powdery mildew resistance
- Mulch the affected areas to slow the spread of the disease

### *Voles and mice*

- Minimize the amount of mulch and plant litter that gets piled up around your garden. Voles like living in piles of mulch and other plant matter
- Snap traps; or inform greenhouse staff where they were seen

### *Aphids*

Aphids look like little green water bugs that are often found in large numbers. Plants that are extremely attractive to aphids include peppers, tomatoes, swiss chard, and lettuce. They can be deterred by:

- Predatory ladybugs and aphidoletes
- Planting marigolds, dill, chives, and fennel in and around your plants
- Wiping pests off plants with a rag
- Spraying the insects with a water and rubbing alcohol solution

### *Spider mites*

Spider mites are most visible because of their small compact webs that are found on or below the plant. The common spider mites in the greenhouse look like little red dots. Actual spiders should not be mistaken for spider mites as spiders aid in the removal of insects that are not beneficial to the plants or gardeners, and do not cause any harm to the plants. Spider mites do best in environments with plants and soil that are very dry and are less able to fight invading pests. Some methods for deterring spider mites:

- Plant dill, garlic, and coriander
- Maintain well-watered plots
- Removal of organic matter (leaves, weeds, pulled plants), these pieces of organic matter offer ideal places for spider mites to travel along from plant to plant.

### *Birds*

- Apply a row cover to your beds to protect your berries and fruit from birds that enter the greenhouse

Note: When applying essential oils to your plants, avoid applying on leaves when the sun is blazing, as that can easily burn leaves.