

AIM: What are some alternative methods used for pest control?

1. Agricultural Practices

- switching from monoculture to polyculture (less pest problems with polyculture)
- crop rotation – if possible, keep moving crops away from where pests are found on property
- plant “trap crops” to lure pests to something more enticing than main crop (ex. sunflowers to lure pests away from tomatoes)

2. Biological Controls

- use predators / parasites to control pest populations (ladybugs, parasitic wasps)
- dogs / fake dog cutouts to deter geese
- cats for mice
- bat boxes for mosquitoes
- scarecrows for crows near corn

3. Physical Controls

physical barriers / techniques to reduce or remove pests

- non-toxic traps (bug zappers)
- ultrasound repellers for rodents
- “Aqua Heat” – hot water sprays that are hot enough to remove pests, but that does not damage crops

4. Natural Chemical Controls

- companion planting
 - “mums” / marigolds - many insects (ticks, ants, fleas, cut-worms)
 - herbs/citronella – mosquitoes
- pheromone (sex attractant) sprays to lure pests into traps
- dog hair / animal urine

5. Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

a carefully planned MIX of pest control methods used to improve the pest situation and make it more tolerable while reducing/avoiding the use of pesticides