

## Root Knot Nematode control Suggestions

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1. Resistant variety (available in many tomato and a few new pepper varieties).
2. Resistant or immune crop (onion, sweet corn, corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats, barley, rye, ryegrass, turfgrass, rosemary). Avoid root crops such as carrot and table beet because very low root knot nematode numbers in soil cause extensive damage.
3. Crop rotation [3 years clean dry (weed-free) fallow or weed-free resistant crop]
4. Sanitation
  - a. Discard any new vegetable or ornamental plants with galls on roots. This includes volunteers, “gift” plants from friends and neighbors, or transplants from nurseries with poor practices.
  - b. Avoid carrying infested soil from infested sites into your garden and landscape on shoes, shovels, hoes, cultivation equipment, tires, etc.
  - c. Concentrate clean-up efforts in areas not vulnerable to re-infestation by storm runoff from sites up slope.
  - d. As soon as galled roots on any plant are discovered, pull plants and all roots immediately. Discard in sealed plastic bags. This will stop reproduction and limit population levels in soil.
5. Solarization of loose moist soil under thick clear plastic in late summer.
6. Trap crops of resistant plants such as cereal rye (“Elbon” variety is widely available) planted in the fall or winter have some benefits including
  - a. “trapping” nematode larvae without allowing maturation and reproduction
  - b. Reducing erosion
  - c. increasing organic matter in soil to improve growth of subsequent vegetable plantsDisadvantages include the difficulty of killing the large rye plants and incorporating large amounts of fresh organic matter.
7. Emphasize cool season crops because root knot nematodes do more damage with higher soil temperatures. Plant as late in the fall as possible after soil temperatures have dropped. Avoid carrots and table beets.
8. Fumigants under plastic can be very effective in cleaning up root knot nematode infestations. Soil should be slightly moist and worked as deep as possible before covering with thick plastic and releasing the product under plastic. Seal immediately. Due to critical safety issues, only licensed pesticide applicators can purchase and apply most fumigants. Contact local pest control businesses for availability. Follow directions carefully for exposure time until plastic can be removed, and waiting time for the fumigant to leave the soil for planting.