

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## Common pests and diseases: Celery

When growing vegetables, it is always exciting to care for the plant throughout its growing phase and then harvest it for delicious recipes later on, but one thing to watch out for is pests and diseases. Different plants are susceptible to different types of pests and diseases, and it is important to make yourself aware so you can keep a watchful eye and also take any preventative methods to keep your plants safe throughout their lifespan.

Celery can fall victim to several different pests and diseases.



[Celery seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

### Pests:

There are a few different kinds of pests which can affect celery plants. These include aphids, armyworms and nematodes.

Nematodes can create galls on roots, yellowing plants which will then wilt in hot weather and a reduction in plant vigor. These pests prefer sandy soils and damage is more typical in fields or gardens with sandy soils. To manage these pests, plant resistant varieties, check the roots of the plants in the middle of the season and solarize the soil to reduce the nematode population.

Armyworms will feed on the leaves and create skeletonized leaves, shallow wounds on the celery, and can lay eggs on the leaves. To manage this infestation, apply *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

Aphids can cause the leaves to yellow and become distorted, create necrotic spots on the leaves and stunt the shoots. To manage an aphid issue, use reflective mulch which

will deter the aphids from feeding in your celery. If the infestation is high, use insecticides. Neem or canola oil also can help control the issue.

### Diseases:

In addition to pests, celery plants can be affected by several types of diseases such as bacterial blight, soft rot, celery mosaic, damping-off and more.

Bacterial blight is a problem in which water-soaked spots on the leaves become necrotic. It is caused by bacteria. Use copper sprays to control the disease, or plant celery varieties that are less susceptible to the disease.

Soft rot is also caused by bacteria, and to prevent this, celery should be planted in soil that is well-draining. Allow the celery plants to dry completely before you water them again to avoid wounding plants during harvest because this bacteria can enter the



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plants through its wounds.

Celery mosaic is a viral disease that creates mottling in leaves between the veins which then causes the leaves to become twisted, curled or crinkled. Young plants may become stunted. To manage this virus, implement a celery-free period for 1 to 3 months and also control umbelliferous weeds.

Damping-off causes soft and rotting seeds which then fall to germinate. It leads to the rapid death of seedlings before they even sprout from the soil. To manage this, avoid planting celery in soil that doesn't drain well. Plant the celery in raised beds and use high quality seeds.

You can find celery seeds on our website at [ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)!



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