

Herbs That Repel Insects

Many people ask us which herbs repel insects. So what herb plants are effective for chasing away those pesky pests? The following is a list of Herb plants in alphabetical order with the pest they chase away. Remember, you must occasionally bruise or rub the leaves to activate the fragrances that do the chasing!

Common Name	Botanical Name	Pests Repelled
Holy Basil	Ocimum sanctum	flies and mosquitoes
Lavender	Lavendula	mosquitoes and gnats
Lemon Balm	Melissa officinalis	mosquitoes and gnats
Lemon Thyme	Thymus x citroidirus	mosquitoes and gnats
Mexican Marigold	Tagetes minuta	mosquitoes and gnats
Mugwort	Artemisia vulgaris	moths
Pennyroyal mint	Mentha pulegium	fleas and ticks
Pyrethrum	Chrysanthemum cinerifolium	mites, aphids, and leaf hoppers
Santolina	Santolina chamaecyparissus	all insects
Scented Geranium (Lemon Rose)	Pelargonium graveolens	mosquitoes and gnats
Southernwood	Artemisia abrotanum	moths
Tansy	Tanacetum vulgare	ants

Santolina has been found to be the most effective insect repellent in the garden. Plant several plants in the corners of your gardens and rub them every day.