

# Winning the War on Pests: Smart Strategies for Greenhouse Growers

Greenhouses provide ideal conditions for thriving crops but also attract a variety of pests. From tiny insects to rodents, managing these intruders poses a significant challenge.

While crop-focused pest control often gets the most attention, Structural Pest Management (SPM) is equally important in ensuring a greenhouse's productivity and longevity. By addressing pests such as rodents, flies, crawling insects, and cockroaches, SPM serves as a protective barrier, safeguarding the facility from threats to plant health and compliance with safety standards.

Here's how growers can implement effective strategies:

## RODENT CONTROL

### ► Fortify the Perimeter

Exterior bait stations and covered snap traps along greenhouse walls are your first line of defense. Keep the critters out before they even think about sneaking in.

### ► Layered Protection Inside

Mechanical traps in hallways, packhouses, and mechanical rooms catch anything that makes it past your outer defenses. Regular check-ins keep these traps ready for action.

### ► Inspections

Regular inspections can uncover weak spots like holes, broken screens, or missing door sweeps. Clearing trash, and debris eliminates pest invitations.

### ► Arthropod Control

Spiders, flies, cockroaches, and beetles—these arthropods are some of the uninvited guests no grower wants. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is your go-to strategy for keeping them out.

- **Create a No-Go Zone**

Clear a buffer zone around the greenhouse. No plants, no debris, no hiding places—simple but effective.



- **Seal Every Crack**

Arthropods are crafty and can slip through the smallest gaps. Sealing entry points keeps them out for good.

- **Light Traps**

Light traps and coloured glue boards work wonders inside greenhouses to reduce pest pressure.

### ► Organic Growers

Organic greenhouses can rely on mechanical controls and advanced IPM tools instead of pesticides.

- **Track the Trouble**

Advanced systems like trap mapping and barcoding help pinpoint pest activity, enabling growers to address issues early.

- **Stay Audit-Ready**

Modern pest programs offer digital portals with e-binders, pest trend reports, and pesticide usage records. These tools simplify audits and ensure your greenhouse remains transparent and compliant.

Greenhouse pest management goes beyond controlling pests—it's about meeting strict industry standards like HACCP, Canada GAP, and organic certifications. With over a century of expertise, Abell Pest Control customizes programs to keep growers audit-ready and operating efficiently.