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# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**SHARING  
SECRETS**

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**“How do you protect your vegetable crops from critters?”**

Eating your own home grown fresh vegetables is not only a delicious and satisfying treat it's also a great sustainable practice. Part of the process is dealing with pests of many types. So this month we asked our members and here's what some of you told us:

For snails, slugs, earwigs, caterpillars – get chickens. For chickens – get a wire fence. - *LB*

To protect my tomato plants from gophers, I rolled a 4' x 8' wire fence panel into a circle and tied the ends together with twist ties, then placed it over the whiskey barrel holding the plants. - *K*

In Europe, I used to plant lavender and chamomile among my vegetables because bugs don't like the smell!  
- *GC-D*

Four-legged mammals – fencing around the beds and over the beds.

Snails – hand pick, drop in a bag with 1 to 2 inches of salt and then dispose in trash.

Tomato worms – look for droppings, hand pick and destroy. - *Anonymous*