

## HOME REMEDIES FOR INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL

Sally Scalera

Home-made soap & oil spray for insect control

MIX: 2 1/2 TBSP cooking oil + 2 1/2 TBSP baby shampoo

Mix well in 1 gallon of water

NOTE: Shake well before and during application.

Water the plant well the day before you spray.

Do not spray during the heat of the day in full sun.

Reduce potential injury by rinsing the plant with fresh water a few

Hours after the soap spray application.

Thorough coverage of the pest is necessary so spray both sides of

The foliage thoroughly until it drips from the leaves.

Spray every 5-7 days as needed.

If a fungus is also present than add to the above formula:

2 TBSP baking soda

NOTE: Shake well before and during application.

If the weather is humid or the threat of disease is high, spray every

Five to seven days.

Spray both sides of the leaves thoroughly.

Always test any spray on a small area of the plant.

Can be used against blackspot & mildew on roses, powdery mildew

On summer squash, early blight on tomatoes and alternaria leaf

Blight on melons, and who knows what else!

(The use of soap or oil for insect control will control the insects but will do nothing to correct the condition that is making the plant susceptible to the insects. Using foliar applications of fish emulsion and seaweed may help ill plants do better.)

Another control for the fungus Powdery Mildew

Spray a milk solution (a minimum of a 10% concentration which is 1

Cup of milk in 9 cups of water) sprayed twice a week.

The milk was shown to be as effective as or better than conventional

Fungicides.

(Research conducted in Brazil and published in the journal Crop Protection vol. 18, 1999, pp. 489-92)

Use aspirin to fight fungus too! Dissolve  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an aspirin in a gallon of water, and spray Every two to three weeks. The aspirin will boost the plants defense mechanism. (Testing done at the University of Rhode Island showed that tomato and other plants tested also yielded more fruit than those treated with commercial fertilizers.)

For a root rot fungus in the soil: (Pythium, Rhizoctonia, and Pytophthora & Fusarium)  
Add some corn meal (right off of the grocery store shelf) to the Diseased soil and plant(s). The corn meal will stimulate the good soil micro-organisms which keep the bad microbes under control.  
(This research was carried out by the Texas A&M Research Station in Stephenville where they are growing peanuts organically.)

#### Corn Earworm Control

Mix vegetable oil and some Btk (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*) Together.  
Using an eye dropper, apply 5 drops of the oil- Btk mix per ear just as The corn silks begin to turn brown.  
(This recommendation is backed by research conducted at the University of Massachusetts and Hampshire College.)

#### Disease control on orchids:

Single plants with fungus problems can often be treated with ground cinnamon rather than a chemical fungicide. The orchid leaves must be damp enough for the cinnamon to stick to the leaves and just sprinkle the cinnamon on the affected area. Allow the leaves to dry for approximately one week and the area will dry out.  
(Information from the American Orchid Society)

#### Red pepper spray for repelling insects

MIX: 2 TBSP Red pepper (ex. McCormick Cayenne Pepper  
From the spice section of the grocery store.)

6 drops of baby shampoo

In 1 gallon of water

Let this mixture sit overnight and then stir it thoroughly to dissolve as much of the pepper as possible. (Before putting this solution in your sprayer it is best to strain it so that it doesn't clog the sprayer nozzle.)

Spray this mixture weekly

(Research done at Auburn University in Alabama showed that this solution in

Addition to garlic juice sprays helped repel insect pests from cabbage plants. Research has also shown that garlic juice not only repels insects but can even kill many insects.)

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