

## **HOME REMEDIES FOR INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL**



Remember to control pests responsibly—of the one million insect species less than 1% are pests.

- Check plants on a routine basis for pests and other problems.
- Identify the pest.
- Is the pest friend or foe?
- Is intervention necessary?
- If so, start with the least toxic treatment.

### **HOMEMADE SOAP SOLUTION FOR INSECT CONTROL**

**Mix:** 1-2 Tablespoon (TBSP.) baby shampoo, dish soap (non-degreaser), or Kirk's Castile soap  
1 Gallon water

#### **NOTE:**

- ✚ Thorough coverage of the pest is necessary and spray both sides of the foliage until it drips from the leaves.
- ✚ Avoid using soaps on plants with hairy leaves or with thin waxy coverings on the leaves, such as cucumbers and African violets.
- ✚ Test the spray on a small area of the plant. Wait 2 - 3 days and check for any damage.
- ✚ Reduce potential injury by rinsing the plant with fresh water a few hours after the soap spray application.
- ✚ Water the plants the day before the soap spray application.

### **HOMEMADE OIL SPRAY SOLUTION FOR INSECT CONTROL**

**Mix:** 1-2 TBSP. liquid cooking oil such as Corn Oil or Olive Oil or Kirk's Castile soap  
1-2 TBSP. baby shampoo, dish soap (non-degreaser)  
1 gallon water \*\*\*\* Mix solution well

#### **NOTE:**

**DO NOT USE OIL ON ORCHIDS AND AVOID USING OIL SPRAY ON PLANTS WHEN THE TEMPERATURE IS ABOVE 80 degrees F.**

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- ✚ Test the spray on a small area of the plant. Wait 2 - 3 days and check for any damage.
- ✚ Reduce potential injury by rinsing the plant with fresh water a few hours after the soap spray application.
- ✚ Water the plants the day before the soap spray application.

## RED PEPPER SPRAY FOR REPELLING INSECTS

**Mix:** 2 TBSP. red pepper (i.e.: McCormick Cayenne Pepper in spice section of grocery)  
6 drops baby shampoo or dish soap (non-degreaser)  
1 gallon water

### NOTE:

Let mixture sit overnight and then stir it thoroughly to dissolve as much of the pepper as possible.

- ✚ Strain with a coffee filter or cheesecloth before using solution in sprayer or solution will clog nozzle.
- ✚ Spray mixture weekly for best results.

Research at Auburn University showed that adding GARLIC to spray helped repel insect pests from cabbage plants.  
Research has shown GARLIC JUICE not only repels but can kill many insects.

## ATTRACTING LADYBUGS TO WHERE APHIDS ARE A PROBLEM:

**Mix:** 5 ounces sugar  
1 quart water

### NOTE:

Apply using a watering can to plants with aphids

Research at Utah State University noted that a solution of sugar water applied at the center of an alfalfa field increased ladybug numbers in 1 -2 days by 200% to 1300%. (Printed in Entomophaga Vol. 42 2)

## HOMEMADE SOLUTION FOR FUNGUS

**Mix:** 1-2 TBSP. baking soda  
1 TBSP. oil (see precautions above for using oil on plants)  
1 gallon of water  
**Shake well before and during application**

This solution can be used for

Black Spot and Mildew on roses, Powdery Mildew on summer squash,  
Early Blight on tomatoes, and Alternaria Leaf Blight on melons.

### NOTE: Do not use on orchids

- ✚ Spray both sides of the leaves thoroughly at the first sign of disease.
- ✚ If the weather is humid or the threat of disease is high, spray every five to seven days.
- ✚ Test the spray on a small area of the plant. Wait 2 - 3 days and check for any damage.

## **ORCHID FUNGUS CONTROL**

**Single plants, with fungus problems can often be treated with ground cinnamon rather than a chemical fungicide.**

- ✚ The orchid's leaves must be damp enough for the cinnamon to stick to the leaves.
- ✚ Sprinkle the cinnamon on the affected area.
- ✚ Allow the leaves to dry for approximately one week. The area will dry out.
- ✚ (Information from the American Orchid Society)

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