

Natural Homemade Insecticides

General Spray

An all purpose pest repellent and fungicide.
Spray daily for heavy infestations

Ingredients: 1 onion, 1 tablespoon of cayenne pepper, 1 garlic bulb.

Chop or grind ingredients. Steep overnight and strain. Dilute to 1 part in five of water.

Soapy water

A spray to chase away or kill aphids, maggots, mealy bugs, red spider mites and whitefly

Ingredients: 2 tablespoons of laundry soap, 1 litre water.

Mix and leave standing until dissolved. Strain. Add a teaspoon of mineral oil (or kerosene) for big infestations. Add soap to other sprays to make sure they cling to leaves, especially to undersides.

Garlic Spray

Repels: aphids, cabbage white butterfly, bean fly, caterpillars, mosquitoes, snails, wireworm.

Checks: leaf curl, brown rot, downy mildew, leafspot, bean rust

Ingredients: 90g garlic bulbs, 2 teaspoons of kerosene, 600ml water, 20g pure soap

Soak for 24/48 hours and then add water with dissolved soap. Stir and strain through gauze and store in a glass container (non metallic).
Dilute to 1 part in 20 of water

Garlic and Chilli spray

Treats similar conditions to garlic but is more potent

Ingredients: 10 cloves of garlic, 5-5 hot chillies, 2-3 onions.

Boil, store in a glass container, and stand overnight. To use, mix 1 small cup in 10l of water; add a little liquid soap or milk to adhere. For curl leaf, spray everyday for about a week

Onion Spray

Spray several times for blight on potatoes and tomatoes, for apple scab, curl leaf, powder mildew, aphids and red spider mites.

Ingredients: Onions

Double the amount of water as onions. Grind onions alone or with chives/ onion tops in blender, then simmer ingredients on stove for 2 hours.

Dilute 1 part in 20 of water.

Chive Tea

For: scab and mildew

Ingredients: 50ml of boiling water, 1 tablespoon of chives.

Mix and leave for 1 hour and strain. Dilute with 2 parts water

Milk Spray

Checks virus diseases like tomato mosaic and kills red spider mites, caterpillars and tomato worms.

Ingredients: milk/sour milk, nine parts of water.

Dilute milk with water.

Buttermilk Spray

This spray destroys adult spider mites and their eggs, which are enveloped in a sticky mixture and suffocate.

Ingredients: 1 tablespoon of butter milk, ½ cup of flour, 2 l of water.

Mix all together

Baking Soda Spray

For rusts and mildews

Ingredients: 100g of baking soda, 3 litres of water, 50g soap.

Mix thoroughly

Pyrethrum Spray

Wide spectrum insecticide – use with caution

Especially good for Aphids.

Ingredients: 2 tablespoons of flower heads, 2 litres of hot water.

Make tea with flower heads and add a little dissolved soap to improve consistency. Or grind flower heads and add to water. Let stand for one hour.

Spray in the evening against – aphids, caterpillars, leafhoppers, mites and thrips, mildew and scab

Wormwood Tea

Spray to repel aphids, black flea, beetles, flies, white cabbage moth, butterflies and slugs.

Note: wormwood contains a toxic substance called absinthian.

Ingredients: 1 litre of boiling water, a handful of wormwood.

Mix all together and let stand until cool. Strain

Cabbage Grub Dust

Dust plants to kill all kinds of cabbage grubs.

Ingredients: 2 handful of wood ash, 2 handfuls of flour, ½ cup of salt.

Mix all together

Epsom salts

For spraying on plants with leaves yellowing as they have been attacked by a virus. Such plants are deficient in magnesium which has been 'locked up' by overuse of wood ash, lime or phosphorus.

Ingredients: 50g of Epsom salts (magnesium sulphate), 4 litres of water.

Dissolve salts in water.

