

Making Your Own Natural Pesticides

These natural pest repellents can be applied with:

- a sprayer or watering can
- by dipping leafy twigs into the solution
- Sprinkling it onto the plants

Tip: Use a stick to apply the solution to the underside of leaves.

Safety first:

- Don't leave pesticides outside or sitting around where they could be mistakenly consumed by animals or humans. All food treated with natural pesticides should be washed in clean water before being sold or eaten.
- When using any pest control apply before sunrise and after sunset so that foraging bees are not affected. Use several times a day if pest problem is chronic and after rain
- Homemade sprays should be stored in a glass bottle in a dark place away from children. Most of the sprays can be stored for up to a month. The pulp left after straining the mixtures can be dug into the garden or put in your mulch heap

Disruptors

Chilies or Hot Peppers

Boil a bowlful (half a kg) of sliced ripe chili peppers in 3 litres of water for 15 to 20 minutes. Alternatively boil 5-6 Scotch Bonnet peppers in a medium saucepan for 15 to 20 minutes. Add 30 grams of soap and stir to make solution soapy (so it will adhere to the plants). Add 3 more litres of water, let cool and strain. Instead of boiling peppers can be put in a bucket of water and left to draw for 4 to 5 days. Add soap and proceed as above. Apply once a week if there is no rain, 2-3 times a week if it rains.

Uses

Use on vegetable gardens against caterpillars, aphids, flies, ants and other pests.

Neem

Grind fresh leaves, dilute with water and strain. Let draw in container for 4-5 days.

Or

Crush 500 grams of neem seeds. Mix the crushed seeds with 10 L of water and leave to stand for at least 5 hours (preferably overnight). Strain this through heavy cloth or gauze and it is ready for spraying.

Uses

Particularly effective on caterpillars and weevils. Spray daily for 2 weeks to interrupt caterpillar's reproduction cycle.

Pyrethrum

Dry ½ to 1 Kg of young flowers until they are crumbly. Boil in 4 litres of water for 15 to 20 minutes. Add soap and stir.

Add 4 litres of water. Strain before using in a sprayer. Store extra dried flowers or pesticide solution in a dry place away from direct sunlight. Use liquid as soon as it cools. Apply in the same way as the pepper spray. Best results if applied after sundown. Apply once a week if there is no rain, 2-3 times a week if it rains.

Uses

Use on vegetable gardens against caterpillars, aphids, flies, ants and other pests. Powder of cut flowers can be sprinkled around the house to kill fleas and on beds to kill bed bugs.

Salt Spray

Mix 125g salt with 9 litre of water and 30 grams of soft soap. Helpful in controlling white cabbage butterfly.

Repellents

Mexican Marigolds

Place large quantities of freshly gathered flowers, leaves and stalks in a bucket of water. Let stand for 5 to 7 days to decay. Stir often so material decays evenly. When decayed, dilute with equal amount of water and add soap.



Uses

Acts as crop strengthener to help potatoes, beans, tomatoes and peas resist blight, mildew and other fungal diseases. Begin spraying before diseases start: continue regularly once a week. Effective if weather is not too damp. Also repels aphids, caterpillars and flies. Decayed flowers, leaves and stalks can also be used as mulch.

Wood Ash

Use fresh (but not hot) ash from cooking fires. Any sort of wood will do, although ash from eucalyptus or Cyprus trees is most effective. Sprinkle handfuls of ash around seedlings as soon as they sprout to repel cut worms. Replace after every rain. Need only apply for the first 2-3 weeks (until plants are too big for worms to cut).

Uses

Also effective against root maggots, snails and slugs. Surrounding entire plot with 8 to 10 centimeter trench with ash has the same effect.

Pepper Combination all Purpose Spray

Blend 3 hot peppers, 2 onions and a bulb of garlic in 1 litre of water. Boil, let stand for 2 days. Strain and spray. This may be frozen for future use. Ground cayenne or red hot pepper can also be sprinkled on the leaves of plants (apply when leaves are slightly damp) to repel chewing insects.

Uses

Protects plants from cabbage worms, caterpillars, hornworms, aphids, flea beetles and other chewing sucking insects.

Onion Spray

Blend one unpeeled onion with 1 litre of water until it is milky colour. Strain and spray. Helpful with aphids and red spider mites.

Garlic Spray

Soak 4 garlic cloves in 1 L of cold water for 3 days. Blend and strain. Helpful with ants, caterpillars and cabbage worms.



Repellent Herbs

- Basil: repels house flies and mosquitoes.
- Lavender: repels moths, fleas, flies and mosquitoes.
- Lemongrass: repels mosquitoes.
- Rosemary: repels mosquitoes and a variety of pests attracted to vegetable plants.
- Mint: repels mosquitoes
- Bay leaves: repel flies. When you grow this plant, you won't have to rely on the dried leaves from stores to add flavour to roasts and soups. Just pick the leaves as you need them.
- Chives: repels carrot flies, Japanese beetle and aphids.
- Dill: repels aphids, squash bugs, spider mites, cabbage loopers and tomato hornworms.
- Fennel: repels aphids, slugs and snails.
- Lemon balm: repels mosquitoes.
- Oregano: repels many pests and will provide ground cover and humidity for peppers.
- Parsley: repels asparagus beetles.
- Thyme: repels whiteflies, cabbage loopers, cabbage maggots, corn earworms, whiteflies, tomato hornworms and small whites.
- Garlic & mint: repels bugs from basil.

Attractants

Attractants draw the pests to an alternate location or to the plant itself in order to trap them. Some of the types of attractants are listed below;

- Sticky fly traps – can be made easily
- Pheromones – pheromone lures can be bought at your local hardware store and usually trap the bugs when they come close to the device.
- Sacrificial plants & beds – if pest problems get really bad and it is hard to trap or discourage them away from the garden or plants otherwise it is wise to use a sacrificial lot upwind in order to provide the pests food but save the important crop. For example caterpillars love all greens. One can plant a sacrificial bed of mustard greens that will save the expensive bed of cabbage downwind.

Fungicide

The best remedy against pests and fungus is good healthy soil and plants. If however you do see fungus developing cinnamon powder can be used for disease reduction.

- It can be sprinkled around the effected plants and used to replace fungicides, especially in young crops and seedlings.

Chive Tea

Pour 600 ml of boiling water over ¼ cup of dried chives. Leave to infuse for one hour. Strain. Dilute 1 part spray to 2 parts water. Helpful for scale and mildew.

