

Green Gardening

Home gardening is a great way to provide a food and a restful place to enjoy the outdoors. You can make it safer by reducing chemicals and trying these easy gardening suggestions.



Walk your garden daily, check the health of plants and look for pests, so you can catch infestations early. In the morning, try a firm spray of water to wash or knockoff tiny pests like aphids or small sucking insects on leafy vegetables and plants, so the warm sun can help dry the plant leaves. Pest problems caught early and with consistent methodical treatment, can be effective. Sometimes patience and nature will take care of the problem, like when ladybugs find a bunch of aphids as a tasty food source, they will lay their eggs and the larvae will take care of the problem naturally.

GREEN GARDENING RECIPES



Safer Insecticides



OIL SPRAY INSECTICIDE

- 1 cup of vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon of liquid soap (such as Castile or liquid dish soap)

Mix and shake thoroughly to make a concentrate.

Add 2 teaspoons of the oil spray mix concentrate to 1 quart of water, shake thoroughly, and spray directly on the surfaces of the plants which are affected by pests.

Repeat daily until infestation is gone.

SOAPY SPRAY INSECTICIDE

- 1/2 teaspoon of a mild liquid soap (such as Castile or dish wash liquid soap)
- 1 quart of water

Mix and spray mixture directly on the infected surfaces of the plants.

Repeat daily until infestation is gone.

CHILI PEPPER INSECT DETERRENT SPRAY

- 1 tablespoon of chili powder (like Cayenne pepper)
- 1 quart of water
- Several drops of mild liquid soap.

Mix together and let sit overnight, then strain through a coffee filter before pouring into a spray bottle.

Spray on affected areas.

Keep pepper spray away from eyes and skin.

Insecticides

(killing or detouring worms and insects)

Insecticides work best when sprayed in the morning or after 4:00 pm so they don't burn the leaves of plants. Make small amounts, label containers and sprayers with contents, use, and observe, then modify if needed. Please remember, killing off all of the insects in your garden is not the desired result here, as any healthy ecosystem requires an abundance of beneficial insects, microbes, and fungi, both in the soil and on the plants themselves, so creating good habitat for them, as well as building soil fertility, can also be an effective pest management approach.

Herbicides

(killing unwanted plants)

Use caution to only spray the area or unwanted plants. Protect yourself and others from overspray.



Disinfect Your Garden Tools

Stop the spread of disease

Don't forget to disinfect your garden tools to stop the spread of disease from infected plants. Mix four (4) teaspoons of bleach with one (1) quart of water. Use as a spray or keep in a glass jar to pour or dip clippers and garden tools.

GREEN GARDENING RECIPES



Safer Herbicides



DRENCH WITH BOILING WATER

Boil water and pour on weeds. Be careful when handling boiling water to make sure it doesn't splash on anyone.

This may kill beneficial insects in the soil, but it will not leave any residue and the area will recover quickly.

DISTILLED WHITE VINEGAR

Household white distilled vinegar can be applied by spraying full strength onto the leaves of the weeds, saturate well, being careful to minimize any overspray on garden plants and nearby soil.

Repeated applications may be necessary, and the addition of a little liquid dish detergent (1 teaspoon per 16 oz. of vinegar) may improve the effectiveness of this homemade herbicide by helping it adhere to the leaf surfaces.

BORAX

- 1/8 cup powdered borax
- 1 quart water

Mix thoroughly and use a sprayer to coat the leaves of weeds.

SALT AND VINEGAR

- 1 cup salt (table salt or rock salt)
- 1 gallon white vinegar
- 2 teaspoons liquid soap (optional)

Mix and spray mixture directly on the foliage of weeds. The liquid soap can help the efficacy of this weed killer.

Use this in areas where you don't want anything to grow, like sidewalks and driveways, because salt will make the soil infertile.



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