

Home Recipes for Pest Control

Recipes from Hawaii Horticulture (Dr. Greg Koob)

ANT CONTROL

- 3 cups water
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon boric acid

Mix ingredients (do not heat) and make ant bait containers. Use old margarine or cool whip bugs, place cotton balls on bottom and holes on the sides above the cotton balls. Pour ingredients over cotton balls and cover. Set out containers where ants congregate. Allow two to three weeks for control. Refresh with more liquid once a week. After a while, the ants will not take the bait, reduce the boric acid amount to ½ teaspoon for long term control.

WHITEFLY CONTROL

- 1 cup rubbing alcohol
- ½ cup horticultural oil or insecticidal soap
- 1 quart water

Mix ingredients and spray on all parts of affected plants.

POWDERY MILDEW AND FUNGUS CONTROL

- 1 ½ tablespoons baking soda
- 1 gallon water
- a few drops insecticidal soap

Mix together all ingredients and spray on affected plants. This recipe is good for control of black spot and powdery mildew on roses and acts as a broad spectrum fungicide on fruits, vegetables, and flowers.

GENERAL INSECT CONTROL

- 15-20 parts water
- 1 part Simple Green

Mix together and spray insects on plants. Get full coverage of all infested parts.

Recipes from Robert Seronio

HARD BODIED INSECTS (like weevil):

PEPPERMINT SOAP SPRAY

- 2 tablespoons liquid soap
- 2 teaspoons peppermint oil
- 1 gallon warm water

Mix dish soap and water together, then stir in the peppermint oil. It cuts through a bug's waxy shell.

ONION THRIPS

Are attracted to the color blue. Get a piece of cardboard or paper (blue) and coat it with petroleum jelly or tanglefoot. Thrips will throng to their death.

JAPANESE BEETLES

HOT PEPPER SPRAY

- ½ cup dried cayenne peppers
- ½ cup jalapeño peppers

Boil peppers in water and simmer half an hour. Let cool and strain out the solids. Pour liquid in sprayer and spray plant top to bottom. Repeat process after every rain.

Recipe from Bev, MG

ROSEMARY TEA (confuses/repels insect pests)

Blend rosemary and water in a blender. Strain. Add a few drops of soap or canola oil and spray as needed on plants to confuse, repel insects.

Source: Agricultural Research Service/November 1992

SOFT BODIED INSECT SPRAY RECIPE

(controls aphids, mealybugs, whiteflies, scales, citrus black flies)

Begin by preparing a stock solution of Soap-Oil Concentrate:

- Combine 1 Tablespoon of mild dishwashing liquid (Ivory, Joy or Dr. Bronner's, NOT ultra formulas like Dawn) with
- 1 Cup of vegetable oil (peanut, safflower, corn, soybean, sunflower oil)

How to use the Soap-Oil Concentrate:

- Shake the solution of Soap-Oil Concentrate very well before use
- Dilute with water by mixing 1-2 teaspoons of concentrate into 1 cup of tap water.
- Spray plants thoroughly in the morning or late afternoon, especially the undersides of leaves
- Spray once a week for 2 or 3 weeks to eliminate the insects.