

## GOV class 4 Ecological Pest Control

### Home Remedies for Pests

**Aphids** – before doing anything, check to see if beneficial insects are eating the aphids. If not, do the following.

1. **Hard spray of water a few days in a row. Then beneficial predators will take care of the remaining aphids and keep the beneficial insects happy.**
2. **Crush 2 to 3 cloves of garlic. Let sit in a cup of water overnight. Strain and add with 2 more cups of water into a spray bottle. Spray on the aphids and under the leaves. The scent drives aphids away.**
3. **Tomato leaf spray is made from soaking 1 cup of tomato leaves in 2 cups of water. Let it sit overnight, then strain and add 2 more cups of water to a spray bottle, and apply to aphids, undersides of leaves and stems.**
4. **1 tablespoon liquid soap to 1 gallon of water. Spray, then check in a day or two to see if beneficial insects are doing the remainder of the job.**

### **Soft-bodied insects (mites, aphids, mealybugs):**

1. **Mix one tablespoon canola oil and a few drops of Ivory soap into a quart of water. Shake well and pour into a spray bottle. Spray plant from above down, and from below up to get the underside of the leaves. The oil smothers the insects.**
2. **Mix two tablespoons of hot pepper sauce or cayenne pepper with a few drops of Ivory soap into a quart of water. Let stand overnight, then stir and pour into a spray bottle and apply as above. Shake container frequently during application.**

### **Snails and Slugs**

Place a shallow pan of beer in the area where snails and slugs have been seen. They will be attracted and drown when entering the pan.

### **Pillbugs**

In a small plastic container, place 2 tablespoons of cornmeal. Cut a small hole at the base of the container, close to the bottom and large enough to allow in a pillbug, who will eat the cornmeal and die.

### **Grubs:**

For lawn or garden grubs, there is a natural remedy called milky spore. The granules are spread on the soil and cause the grubs to contract a disease that kills them. This natural control affects only the grubs, leaving the beneficial organisms unharmed. Milky spore multiplies over time and will sit inactive, waiting for grubs to infect. One treatment is said to last 40 years. The grubs are actually the larvae of Japanese beetles. So, when you kill the grubs you kill the beetle.

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#### Fungal diseases:

1. Mix two tablespoons of baking soda into a quart of water. Pour into a spray container and spray affected areas. Repeat this process every few days until problem ceases.
2. Combine one tablespoon of cooking oil, two tablespoons of baking soda and a few drops of Ivory soap into a quart of water. Pour into a spray container and apply as above.
3. Mix 1 quart of milk and 1 quart of water. Spray once a week for three weeks.

#### Powdery mildew:

Mix equal parts milk and water and spray on infected plants. Three treatments a week apart should control the disease.

#### Insects on fruit trees:

Lime sulfur and dormant oil, available at nurseries and garden centers, can be sprayed on the trunk and branches of dormant fruit trees. This concoction will suffocate insect egg cases. Because the oily spray is heavy compared to the other water-based sprays, you'll need a pump sprayer. These are fairly inexpensive, and are available to rent from some nurseries. Only use this method while the tree is dormant, however, or it can kill the tree.

#### Cabbage worms, flea beetles, caterpillars and hornworms:

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Liquify two fresh habanero or other chile peppers, one small onion and six garlic cloves in the blender. Pour into a glass jar and set outdoors out of direct sunlight. Allow to steep for 1 to 2 days. Pour the solution through a cheesecloth. Add 1 tablespoon of liquid castile soap or mild non-degreasing dish soap. Shake well to combine. Pour a gallon of hot water into a bucket. Add the jar of concentrate and stir. Pour into a spray bottle. Spray all surfaces of your garden plants thoroughly with the repellent. Pay special attention to the undersides of leaves. Treat early in the morning while dew is still present. This material is also repugnant to mammals such as dogs, cats, squirrels and deer. Apply weekly throughout the growing season.

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#### Ants

1. Mix 1/4 cup of sugar and 1/4 cup of borax. Then sprinkle around any hills and travel paths. The ant will think it is all sugar and take the borax back to the nest. The borax is poisonous to ants.

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2. **Mix 6 ounces of Orange Oil with a gallon of water. Start pouring around the perimeter of the fire ant mound, working your way to the center.**
3. **Pour boiling water on the fire ant mound, working your way from the perimeter to the center.**
4. **Using a stick, disturb the fire ant mound thoroughly. Do this a couple of times a day until the ants move.**

**Critter Spray** -for getting rid of rabbits, deer, dogs, and other critters  
**Mix 4 tsp dry mustard, 3 tsp cayenne pepper, 2 tablespoons Tabasco sauce, 2 quarts warm water. Spray around the border of the garden. Reapply after rains.**