

# Organic Garden Pest Control

**Never use spray** on plants during hot sunny weather as it may cause the leaves to burn. Natural soap is tolerated by plants better than detergent

Surfactants, enzymes and softeners **will kill ants, aphids, caterpillars, grubs, bugs and just about anything small.**

**BE VERY SELECTIVE**

**MIND THE LADYBUGS, LACEWINGS, BEES AND OTHER BENEFICIAL FRIENDS.**

Spraying this mixture around the edge of your garden will deter pets. Rabbits, woodchucks and other garden gate crashers will also be discouraged.

## **Ants:**

**Borax** can be used as a natural insecticide, although must be kept away from children, pets and protect you too. Borax mixed with peanut butter or something sweet, such as honey, means the ants eat it and take it back to their nest to share with other ants, hopefully poisoning all in the nest.

**Diatomaceous earth** sprinkled on ants' trails kills ants by dehydration when they're back in their nest.

Dab some **jam, honey or sugar water** (and borax if you wish) on the base of aphid infested plants. That will hold the ants back while ladybugs can work on the aphids.

**Cucumber peels** on ant routes will send them away for a while.

If you find the ants' nest, sprinkle in or near their entrance one or more of these: **black pepper, cayenne pepper, cinnamon or chili powder**. Likewise **salt** sends them into a frenzy.



## **Aphids:**

**Rhubarb leaf tea** brewed from rhubarb poisons smaller critters, such as aphids, mites, white fly, caterpillars etc. Pour boiling water over crushed rhubarb leaves then leave to soak for several days. Strain, add a good squirt of detergent and dilute enough so that it looks like weak tea and spray over pest infested plants. Repeat every 10 days

or so.

Also try the **garlic/chili sprays**

### **Caterpillars:**

Mix one tablespoon of **molasses** with a quart of hot water. Then add a teaspoon of liquid detergent and put in a spray bottle. Spray the leaves, top and bottom, about once a week.

### **Cats:**

A direct hit from a **water** filled soda bottle with a hole in the cap is handy.

Save your **citrus peel**, especially orange, and cut it up or run over a pile with the lawnmower. Scatter it around garden edges and keep topping off. Cats thoroughly dislike citrus.



### **Earwigs:**

Crumple some **newspaper** in old flower pots and leave them in the garden. In the morning, shake the paper out where they can have a new home or into a bucket of hot water if earwigs aren't your cup of tea.



### **Fleas:**

To deter fleas outside, use **diatomaceous earth** and sprinkle it on your shoes and socks as you step into the garden. It's actually ok for you and pets to ingest diatomaceous earth as it kills parasites; **it's a very fine powder so avoid breathing it in.**

**Pennyroyal** grown near the door and in the garden gets rid of fleas. There are pennyroyal pet soaps and washes that are sold to protect pets from fleas.



### **Mealy bugs:**

They are easy to squish with fingers or dab with a cotton bud **dipped in alcohol**. They have a slight waxy coating, so anything that burns this off causes death by dehydration. Smothering with oil is also effective.

### **Mice:**

Deter mice with **peppermint or eucalyptus oil** – soak cloths or cottonwool and put where mice come in or have been. Empty the crumb tray of your toaster

### **Mildew, mould and fungus:**

Plants that are susceptible to mildew, such as peas, pumpkin, zucchini and cucumber can benefit from a full-cream milk and spray every few days on the leaves until the mildew is under control.

### **Fungus**

**Cinnamon powder** sprinkled around plants and soil also controls fungus.



### **Scale:**

A black fungus called sooty mould grows on the sweet honeydew secretions from scale. **Garlic fire spray** because it kills the crawling nymphs as well as smothering the waxy coated adults, which permanently attach themselves to the plant.

### **Slugs:**

Do a **night patrol** as for snails. The best time is dusk especially when it's damp or raining. Sprays like Garlic fire Spray don't work with slugs and snails — they are mollusks, not insects. **Scoop them up with an old spoon**, dump them in a bucket then sprinkle salt on snails and slugs. It will kill them instantly.

Sprinkle **crushed egg shells** around plants. Slugs and snails will avoid crossing the sharp shells and it will enrich your soil with calcium.

Put a band of **fine sand** about 1/4" high around the garden edge or base of plants.

**Beer or vinegar** in a shallow pan in the garden or **Orange or grapefruit halves** hollowed and turned upside down placed around the garden will also attract snails and slugs.



### **Spider mites:**

**Natural predatory mites** are the best control, so having compost and mulch to encourage beneficial mites will keep the right balance. Spiders, parasitic wasps, lady bugs and lacewings also feed on red spider mites.

Use a **soap spray** to eradicate these critters. Spray plants weekly until mites are gone, then monthly to stop them from returning.



### **Thrips:**

Garlic fire spray thrips and there are a number of predatory bugs such as Lacewing larvae that are a good biological control also.

### **Voles:**

Voles only eat roots and bark rather than insects and worms so you might have to resort to **mouse traps** if you're desperate. Bait traps with bread then lay the traps on the vole trails, cover each trap with a box with a hole



### **Whitefly:**

Try a good **hosing down** that will move them on. **Detergent or oil** coats their wings and stops them flying, so mix up approximately 1-2 teaspoons detergent to 10oz of water, or half a cup of cheap salad oil to 1 quart water, with a dash of detergent. Spray all over infected

plants, including underside of leaves if possible.

Whitefly are **attracted to yellow**. Many hardcore nurseries will not let you enter a greenhouse if you are wearing yellow clothing. Get some sticky stuff, such as **Vaseline, castor oil, natural gum resin** and smear a yellow plastic bucket, or paint a nearby board the brightest yellow you can buy.