



Tucson
Organic
Gardeners

soiling our hands since 1971

Herbal Sprays as Controls

- Make a spray from asparagus juice to kill tomato plant nematodes
- Strip the gel from an aloe vera leaf and mix with water for a spray
- Use extract of nettle to make a spray for control of black flies
- Dry flowers of chrysanthemum cineraria-folium or Croseum in a well ventilated area. Pulverize them to a powder and mix with water for spraying.
- Steep fresh catnip leaves in water. Sprinkle on plants to get ride of flea beetles.
- Extract from celery seeds inactivate bacteria causing black rot.
- Gather chives, chop finely, and make into a tea. Use the spray for apple scab or powdery mildew.
- Boil a half a cup of Sugar in two cups water, let cool. Dilute with one gallon of water. Sugar dries out nematodes and attracts bees.
- A garlic-based oil spray destroys mosquitoes, aphids and onion flies. Chop 3-4 ounces of garlic bulbs. Soak in 2 tbsp of mineral oil for one day. Then add 1 tsp of fish emulsion to one pint of water, add the garlic-oil. Strain and store in a glass container. If this solution does not repel rabbits, add more garlic oil.
- For a hot spray, grind together 2-4 hot peppers, one bell pepper and one small onion. Add 1 quart of water. Let stand 24 hours, then strain. Use spray to control aphids or grasshoppers.
- Mix milk with white hellebore. Use it to spray on cabbage worms and to repel rats, mice & flies.
- Soak nasturtium leaves with water, add a small amount of soap powder, strain, & spray for aphids.
- Mix water and red or yellow onion skins, let soak a few hours, then strain. Spray at 5-day intervals to kill hemipters, a parasite. A toxic substance in the pigments of the onion skins appears to help plants resist certain diseases. Do not use on peas or beans.
- Parsnips have few insect enemies and suffer from few diseases. Make a spray from either the foliage or the roots. Soak in water, strain and use as an insect spray.
- Another Hot pepper spray: grind cayenne pepper (don't breathe dust), mix with water and a bit of real soap to make the spray stick. Use against aphids.
- Grind hot pepper pods, onions and a bulb of garlic. Cover with water, let stand 24 hours. Add enough water to make one gallon. Use several times daily on roses and mums. Bury the mash among the plants where insects occur.
- Soak rhubarb leaves, which contain oxalic acid, in enough water to cover. Pour into the soil before planting brassica (plants in mustard family) to prevent clubroot. Boil the leaves and water to make a spray for black spot and greenfly on roses.
- Pour hot water over elderberry leaves to make a spray to control caterpillar damage and blight.
- Tobacco in a liquid state is poison for insects and highly toxic to mammals. When made into a spray, it dissipates readily, but soft bodied insects are killed by the nicotine. Soak dried ground tobacco and bentonite in water and strain. (Wear gloves and wash hands after handling)
- Put garlic leaves in a juicer. Add 4-5 pints of water and 1 tbsp cornstarch to the garlic juice. Strain and spray on roses for black spot and red spider mites.

L Lockhart 3/93