



GARDEN RECIPES

Use Recycled Water

If you are a patio gardener, consider hauling gray water instead of tap water from outside to your plants. Mild, diluted dish soap won't harm your plants. Water from the bathtub is even better. Conserve!

A great way to conserve water is to water your plants with leftover cooking water. Rather than pouring cooking water down the drain, pour water used to boil or steam veggies onto your potted plants once it has cooled off to room temperature. Don't try to pour it on while it is hot!

Aquarium Water

Aquarium owners know that every few weeks a small percentage of the water must be drained and replaced with fresh water. You can use the discarded water to water your plants. This is not only a good conservation method, but a good fertilizer too!

Natural Herbicides

If you have small areas, cracks or crevices that you need to weed try using vinegar and lemon juice. It is great for places where you won't be growing anything in the near future. Spray directly on plants. To remove young plants, pour boiling water directly on them. This is the simplest, yet safest herbicide there is. Just be careful to avoid plants that you don't want to damage.

Bug Prevention

To prevent bugs on your mustard/collard greens and aphids on your flowers, spray water and 1 TBSP dishwashing liquid on the plant. This will prevent bugs eating the leaves and kill aphids on your flowers.

Liquid Compost

A good tip for those you live in apartments and don't have their own composter: food scraps - like carrot peels, orange rinds, apple cores etc. can be used directly on your garden and even potted indoor plants. Place all your vegetable and fruit scraps into a food processor or blender and blend until you get a liquid with a smooth consistency. Mix with equal part water and pour directly on your plants. If you have pets or are worried about smell or attracting pests cover with a thin layer of peat moss. Be sure to always use a mixture of different fruits and vegetables to ensure a balance of essential nutrients.

Natural Fertilizer

Use compost to return needed bacteria, enzymes and nutrients to the soil. Include clover or other nitrogen fixing plants in the lawn to make it self-fertilizing.

Calcium Boost

Eggshells are great source of calcium. Boil an egg, during the boiling process all the calcium will blend with the water. When the egg is ready let the water cool and water your plants with that water.

Chamomile Tea

Chamomile tea is an excellent cure against damping off and fungal diseases. Make tea and use it to water your plants or spray infected foliage.

Pest Repellant

Pests hate the smell of garlic. Planting garlic among your other plants will discourage pests. You can also water your plants with garlic water to keep pests away. Soak cloves of garlic in a large container of water. The longer the cloves soak, the better.

Coffee Fertilizer

Plants can get a little perk from coffee too. If you drink coffee then save your grinds and sprinkle them on the soil surface right out of the coffee maker. Coffee grinds are slightly acidic so don't give them to your alkaline loving plants.

Aphid Citrus Spray

An effective method of killing aphids is with citrus oil. Brew up some tea using the peel of any type of citrus fruit. Once it is cool pour it into a spray bottle and use it to spray plants infested with aphids. The citrus burns the soft bodies of the aphids but doesn't harm your plant.

Aphids on Rose Bushes

Mulch banana peels into the soil at the base of the rose bushes. This will strengthen them and ward off disease-bearing aphids.

Or try mixing water with a tablespoon of liquid dish soap, such as Dawn, in a spray bottle and mist your rose bush regularly.

Trap Fruit Flies and Gnats

You can make a trap for gnats and fruit flies using a bit of cider vinegar mixed in a wide-mouthed jar of water. Place the jar near a bowl of fruit or an infested plant and the insects will be lured into the jar where they will drown.

Cucumber Beetles

Make beetle traps from an open can or milk carton baited with melon or other garden targets. Place the traps around the garden and check them early in the morning and then discard.

Earwig Repellent

Make rolls out of newspaper, soak them in water then set them out overnight. First thing in the morning the rolls will be full of earwigs. Put the rolls in a tightly sealed bag and out with the trash. Keep at this for a while and you will be rid of your problem.

Snail Repellants

1. Bury a small bowl or can flush with the ground and fill it with beer to attract and trap snails.
2. Another way of protecting your plants from slugs and snails is to place crushed eggshells around the base of the plant.
3. To protect stemmed plants, cut the top and bottom off of a plastic pop bottle. Place this cylinder around your young plants being sure to bury it slightly into the soil. This will act as a barrier. It does double duty as a cloche, providing shelter, warmth and retaining moisture.

Spider Mite Repellent

5 tbs. dishwashing detergent
1 gallon water

Mix the detergent in the water and spray the plants, especially the underside of the leaves. This will help to control the spider mites. Misting plants at least twice a day will keep numbers down. Populations can also be reduced by spraying the underside of the leaves with a jet of water to break up the webs and wash the mites off.

Fungus and Mildew

1 bulb of garlic (approx. 20 cloves), chopped
1 quart of hot water

Place chopped garlic in the water and let steep for at least 24 hours. Strain and spray on plants to eliminate fungus and mildew.

Pest Spray

1 cup grated castile soap
1 cup coarsely chopped tobacco leaves, fresh or cured
3 cup boiling water, divided
1 entire bulb garlic, peeled and crushed or chopped

In a bowl, dissolve soap in 1 cup boiling water and set aside. In a blender, pour remainder of boiling water over tobacco leaves and let set for ten minutes or so. Add garlic and whirl until smooth. Strain through cheesecloth and discard solid materials. Add herbal liquid soap to mixture and stir; pour into a spray bottle.

To use, spray the herbal liquid on insects and their environs at early morning and dusk for three days in a row. Because this mix drives most bugs away, but does not kill them, apply as needed.