

Natural Pest Control

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In the home and garden there are often times when we need a little help to deal with unwanted pests. There are some effective natural methods that help with many different situations. Here are a few that have worked pretty well for me over the years.

For bugs on plants:

Cayenne and garlic spray: this is made using dried or fresh cayenne and garlic. Boil 12 ounces of water and pour it over 1 tsp dried or 1 Tbsp fresh cayenne and 1 tsp dried or 1 Tbsp fresh chopped garlic. Cover and steep until cool. Strain the tea through a coffee filter or a muslin cloth saving the liquid. Add the tea to a spray bottle and add a Tablespoon of apple cider vinegar and a drop or 2 of liquid castile soap. Spray this mixture on plants to get rid of insects or as a preventative.

Neem Oil: Use 1 teaspoon of neem oil in a 32-ounce spray bottle and fill with water. Spray this on plants for any type of insect infestation or as a preventative. This also helps with plant diseases.

Apple trees:

A mixture of 10% black strap molasses in 90% water is used to keep insects out of apples. The mixture is poured in plastic jugs and hung in the apple trees. Cut some holes in the jugs to allow the insects to enter. Hang 2 or 3 jugs in each tree.

Spiders:

Place 10 drops of peppermint essential oil and a teaspoon of apple cider vinegar in a cup of water in a spray bottle. Spray around window wells and door frames to keep spiders away.

Wormwood:

If you have access to fresh wormwood, you can pick some and tie it into a bundle. This can be hung in your pantry or kitchen to keep moths and other pests away. It will dry and be effective for many weeks. Dried wormwood can be placed in a cloth bag and hung the same way.

These are some easy methods to help keep pests under control in your home and garden without using harsh chemicals.

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