

With the weather warming up one is starting to notice insect damage, fungal damage and diseases affecting plants. Rather than spraying with chemical compounds that one may purchase there many homemade concoctions that can be just as effective. So here are a few, I'd like to thank Diana Harden for sending me some of these from Beth Nobel. Some of these were given to me during my Horticulture studies.

### **Insecticides**

<b><i>Scale/Mealy Bugs</i></b>	<p>Mix 4 tbsp dishwashing</p> <p>1 cup vegetable oil</p> <p>Mix with water in a 1:20 ratio</p>
<b><i>Aphids/Caterpillars</i></b>	<p>2 tbsp soap flakes e.g. Lux Flakes</p> <p>1 ltr warm water</p> <p>Mix well use straight</p>
<b><i>Grasshoppers/Possums/Nematodes</i></b>	<p>1 cup molasses</p> <p>1 ltr water</p> <p>Mix and spray ½ ltr to 2 ltrs and water over ½ m (for nematodes)</p>
<b><i>Caterpillars/Grasshoppers/Small Insects</i></b>	<p>6 hot chillies</p> <p>4 large onions</p> <p>2 garlic bulbs</p> <p>2 lts soapy water</p> <p>Chop up ingredients and cover with soapy water. Leave to soak for the 1-2 days then strain.</p> <p>Dilute 1 part to 10 parts water and spray over foliage, targeting leaf eating insects. Keeps up to 2 weeks in a dark place. Smell may cause nausea if too concentrated.</p>
<b><i>Scale/Aphids/Slugs/Earwigs/Whitefly</i></b>	<p>1 tsp of Eucalyptus essential oil</p> <p>2 cups of soupy water.</p> <p>Mix oil with soupy water and repeat spray every 3 days. NOTE: Good general purpose</p>

	spray best used around seedlings and the base of plants to deter slugs.
<b>Red Spider Mite/Mildew</b>	Mix equal parts milk and water and spray every few days. NOTE: Ideal for use on vegetables such as zucchini cucumber, strawberries and tomatoes.

### Fungicides

<b>Blackspot Fungicide</b>	3 tbsp. bi-carb soda  1 ltr water  Few drops of detergent or seaweed concentrate  Mix together use straight.
<b>General Purpose Fungicide</b>	1 tbsp bicarb soda  1 ltr skim milk  Pinch of condies crystals
<b>General Purpose Fungicide</b>	4 large onions  2 cloves garlic  4 hot chillies  Cover with war soapy water and leave overnight. Then strain and add to 5 ltrs of water.

### Herbicides

<b>Recipe 1:</b>	1 cup salt  1 ltr vinegar  Brush onto the leaves of the weeds
<b>Recipe 2:</b>	2 cups Epsom Salts  4lts vinegar

	<p>4 tbsp. liquid dishwasher detergent</p> <p>Mix Epsom Salts and vinegar add dishwasher detergent</p>
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<b><i>Natural Ant Killer</i></b>	<p>1 cup sugar</p> <p>3 tbsp boric acid or borax laundry soap</p> <p>3 cups warm water</p> <p>Mix sugar and boric acid together. Slowly add warm water, stirring all the time so the mixture won't get lumpy. Store in a sealed child proof and labelled jar. Whenever you see ants put a cotton wool ball soaked in the liquid on a saucer or plate. Do not kill the drinking ants as they will take the mixture back to the colony. This should kill the entire colony in a day or two.</p>
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<b><i>Homemade White Oil</i></b>	<p>2 cups sunflower oil</p> <p>½ cup dishwashing liquid</p> <p>Put in a jar and shake up. Store in a cool dry place, it should last about 3 months. The dilution rate is 2 dessertspoons per litre of water. Spray on both sides of the leaves and the bark. Best to spray in the cool of the morning. Not for soft leaf plants like lettuce as it burns.</p>
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<b><i>Attractant for Predators</i></b>	<p>1 tsp vegetable oil</p> <p>1 ltr water</p> <p>Spray on foliage to attract lacewings.</p>
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## Rose Specific Sprays

<b>Week 1:</b>	10 ml Charlie Carp  1 ltr water  5 ml Neem  NOTE: Do not mix Charlie Carp and Neem together instead add each to the water separately.
<b>2 Weeks later:</b>	10 ml Seaweed/Kelp  1 ltr water  5 ml Silica  NOTE: Do not mix Seaweed/Kelp and Silica together instead add each to the water separately. Alternated Week 1 and Week 2 fortnightly as an insecticide and fungicide.