

## Alternatives to pesticides

Pests are insects and arthropods that are an economic and social nuisance to the community. They cause destruction of economic importance and are annoying to the well-being of the general community.

Pesticides were developed to control the breeding and presence of pests around man and his environment. However, they are not the only solution. The use of alternative non-chemical methods are safe, cheap, effective and without harm to humans or the environment.

Try some of these simple alternatives:-

### **ANTS**

- To kill ants in the garden, save coffee grounds for one week. For every 1Kg of grounds, use 2 litres of water. Blend, and pour over ant hills and runs.
- Smear eucalyptus oil where ants have been active.
- Pour boiling water into the nests.
- Crushed cloves will repel the ants.
- Borax and honey baits placed in locations which are inaccessible to children and pets (Note Borax is poisonous).
- Sprinkle diatomaceous earth around nests (Diatomaceous earth is available from pool supply shops).

### **MOSQUITOES**

- Place a pot of basil on the window sill, or place of entry.
- Fill container with water to discourage breeding and empty twice a day
- Melt camphor in boiling water and leave overnight in rooms.
- Use lavender oil or citronella oil as personal repellents.

### **TERMITES (WHITE ANTS)**

- Take boiled linseed oil and stir in pulverised charcoal to the consistency of paint. Treat affected areas, or for best results, all walls on the outside. One coat is usually sufficient.

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## **FLIES**

- Place a pot of mint in area where they may enter.
- Oil of lavender where they may enter or land.
- Kerosene on sills or where they may land.
- Few cloves in muslin. Hang to a light fixture.
- Place a pot of rue near barbeques to repel flies (Rue has a very pungent odour).
- Glass bottle with metal screw top lid: half fill bottle with water and also place a piece of meat inside. Punch a small hole in the top of the bottle with a nail (sufficient to allow the fly to enter) and suspend or place bottle in outside location.

## **MICE**

- Sprinkle dried or fresh mint around the kitchen.
- Mice have a dislike of aniseed in either fresh or dried form. Aniseed placed in the mouse hole or the mouse run will discourage its entry to the room or area.

## **COCKROACHES**

- Mix borax with honey or jam and place in areas which are inaccessible to children or pets.
- Place Borax powder beneath or near motors and in cupboards.
- Dust breeding areas with diatomaceous earth.
- Seal cracks around drainage pipes with a suitable sealant.
- Coat inside of jar with vaseline then stand upright and place biscuit or bread crumbs in bottom. Place near area of activity.

## **MOTHS**

- Oil of cinnamon on little pieces of cotton wool among clothing. Use instead of mothballs.
- Sprinkle Epsom salts or cloves at the back of shelves or drawers.
- Place dried herbs such as tansy, wormwood or lavender in small cloth bags and place in wardrobe or drawers.

## **WHITE CABBAGE MOTH (AND OTHER CATERPILLARS)**

- Spray plants with "Bug Juice". (Page 5)

## **CRICKETS**

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- Use glue traps to catch crickets
- Plant “larkspurs” and use as a repellent.

### **SNAILS**

- Bran and sugar mixture, chopped carrot or cabbage. Snails will be attracted to this instead of your plants.
- Ash, sand or sawdust act as irritants. Spread thickly around plants. Remove regularly.
- Natural predators: centipedes, lizards.
- Use beer in a saucer as a trap attractant (empty collected snails every morning).
- Collect snails at night after rain or after watering.

### **SLUGS**

- Equal parts flat beer and water, plus raw sugar. Place in container at ground level. Milk works also!
- HOLLOWED OUT citrus skin halves (dome upwards).

### **FLEAS**

- Frequent vacuuming and cleaning of your pets bedding will reduce the flea problem.
- Make a flea shampoo by adding pennyroyal, eucalyptus or tea tree oil to a plain shampoo.

### **TICKS**

- Grated raw potato wrapped in porous material. Squeeze juice through cloth and place over affected areas. Secure. Keep in place for 24 hours.

### **WEEVILS**

- Place contaminated grain in a tin or drum with a lid. Place a lit candle in the drum, and seal well. The flame will use all the oxygen and kill the weevils. Leave a few days before opening.

### **TREATMENTS FOR FRUIT TREES/ORCHARDS**

Home-made soap spray. Spray on fruit trees. Eradicates all suckling pests: mites, scale and rutherlglen bug.

A trap for fruit fly can be made in the same manner as the fly trap substituting 1 teaspoon of Vegemite or Promite for the meat.

### **ALTERNATIVE SPRAY RECIPES**

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### **Bug Juice:**

Collect several attacking/problem insects. Cover with water and liquefy in a blender. Strain through cheesecloth or fine sieve. Dilute 1 part to 10 parts water and spray over the plants being attacked. The sprays will attract predatory insects which eat the problem insects.

### **Garlic Spray:**

100g garlic, chopped  
2 tablespoons mineral oil or liquid paraffin  
Combine and soak for 48 hours.  
Add ½ litre water and 30g of pure soap powder.  
Filter mixture then store in a plastic container.  
Add 15mL (3 teaspoons) to 1 litre water for spraying.

### **Rhubarb Spray: (Useful in aphid control)**

0.5Kg Rhubarb leaves  
1.0 litre water  
Boil for ½ hour. Strain then add 10g pure soap powder.  
Dilute 1 part solution to one part water for spraying.  
Wash food or containers coming into contact with spray.

### **Glue Baits:**

“Glue Baits” are non toxic adhesive card traps to which insects become caught and starve to death. They are available from large supermarkets and some organic stores.