

PROTECTING YOUR GARDEN: ECOLOGICAL PEST CONTROL

Keeping your garden free from pests without resorting to chemical pesticides is not only better for the environment but also safer for you and your family. Here are some effective organic methods to protect your garden from pests:

Companion Planting: Planting certain vegetables, herbs, and flowers together can help repel pests or attract beneficial insects. See [here](#) for more information. For example, marigolds repel nematodes, while planting basil near tomatoes can deter tomato hornworms.

Planting a row of strong aromatic herbs such as mint, sage, rosemary, lavender, and oregano are effective at deterring rodents and other pests that may come snooping through your garden!

Beneficial Insects: Encourage the presence of natural predators like ladybugs, lacewings, and predatory wasps in your garden. You can attract these beneficial insects by planting nectar-rich flowers, providing shelter, and avoiding the use of broad-spectrum pesticides.

Handpicking: Regularly inspect your plants for pests and remove them by hand. This method works well for larger pests like caterpillars, beetles, and snails. Drop them into a bucket of soapy water to dispose of them effectively.

Citronella Oil: Citronella oil is derived from the leaves and stems of different species of lemongrass and is primarily used as a natural insect repellent. Its strong, distinctive odor is highly effective at deterring mosquitoes and other flying insects.

Peppermint Oil: Peppermint oil, extracted from the leaves of the peppermint plant, is celebrated for its cooling, invigorating scent and is used to repel ants, spiders, and mosquitoes. It also offers mild antifungal and antibacterial properties, making it useful in various natural remedies.

Homemade Sprays: Create homemade pest control sprays using ingredients like garlic, chili peppers, and soap. These sprays can deter a wide range of pests and are safe for use on edible crops.



MICROHABITAT'S ECOLOGICAL INSECTICIDAL SPRAY



For a 3.8L (1G) container:

- 2 Tsp Vegetable Oil
- 2 Tbsp Liquid Black Soap
- 10 Drops Peppermint Essential Oil
- Add a teaspoon of Baking soda if there are fungal pests on leaves
- Add a tablespoon of Diatomaceous Earth if there are Aphids present
- Fill container with water

Spray this mixture on infected areas, repeat once weekly. This mixture can also be used as a preventative measure before infections occur.

