



NATURAL PLANT FERTILIZERS

from: www.jerrybaker.com

“**BABY SHAMPOO** and **DISHWASHING LIQUID** help to soften the soil and remove dust, dirt, and pollution from leaves, so important functions like photosynthesis can take place more easily. These simple soaps make other sprays stick to leaves better, too.

And bugs hate the taste (especially of the lemon-scented types), so they head for the hills in a hurry! Just make sure you never substitute detergent for these soaps, and in particular, don't use antibacterial detergent, because it can damage your plants.

BEER serves as an enzyme activator to help release the nutrients that are locked in the soil and puts 'em to work making your plants grow stronger, healthier, and better able to nip any problems in the bud. It also wakes up and energizes organic activity.

CORN SYRUP and **MOLASSES** stimulate chlorophyll production in plants, and they help to feed the good soil bacteria, too.

EPSOM SALTS are a super source of magnesium, which helps deepen flower colors and thicken petals. Magnesium also improves the root structure--and that means strong, healthy plants that are your first line of defense against pests, diseases, and even nasty weather.

GARLIC is great in the kitchen, but it's even better in your garden! Its powerful aroma sends pests scurryin', and it acts like an antibiotic that can help sickly plants get growing on the right root again.

TEA contains tannic acid, which helps plants digest their food faster and more easily.”

(Note: Jerry uses cornmeal & sugar to kill ants OR 8 oz. each of: lemon dish soap/mint mouthwash/ tobacco juice/water. He says it also kills aphids, chiggers & wasps. His books are full of fun recipes using things like turmeric, vodka, milk, castile soap baking soda, sardines, veggie juices, ashes...)

GARDEN RECIPES

for Home-Made Pesticides, Weed Killers & Fertilizers



*compiled by by grandma ginger
2-acres.com/Ginger*

My favorite things to add to the gardens are: crushed & powdered egg shells soaked in vinegar (*breaking down calcium carbonate to calcium acetate*), newspaper (*carbon*), dried, crushed banana peels (*potassium*), onion skins (*quercetin*), & dried onion skins and citrus peels--to repel bugs.

To keep birds from eating berries & fruits, I hang RUBBER SNAKES and post PHONY OWLS around. Real snakes are repelled by AMMONIA. Foxes & coyotes avoid doggy do and squirrels & rats stay away from free-range CATS. CHICKENS eat termites, fleas & ticks. And deer don't like DOGS. Gardening is a 'balancing act.'

GRASS & WEED KILLER

SPRAY SOLUTION:

1/2 Gallon Vinegar

1/2 Cup Salt

2 TBSP Dawn Dish Soap

The best time of day to apply VINEGAR weed killer is in the early morning or late afternoon when temperatures are moderate, as extreme heat can cause the solution to evaporate too quickly.

Vinegar-based weed killers should be applied on a day when there's no rain forecasted for at least 24 hours.

This allows the vinegar solution to effectively penetrate the weeds without being washed away.

It only affects the parts of the plant it directly contacts--so it might not prevent weed regrowth from seeds or roots left in the soil. For this reason, it's not effective on weeds with very deep root systems like dandelions, as the herbicide does not get drawn down into the taproot. Re-applications are needed for weed control.

Be careful with salt as it will alter the pH and can harm the surrounding soil if used in excess. It's great for keeping a fence line weed-free.

ANTS & COCKROACHES

BORIC ACID: Wear gloves, as full strength can be toxic if ingested or comes in contact with skin or eyes.

SUGAR: ant food

WATER: crucial for dissolving

Mix 1 TBSP boric acid, 3 TBSP sugar.

Slowly add 2-3 TSBP water to the mixture while stirring continuously, until thick & syrupy-like.

Place around your home (indoors or out) where ants are seen. Ants will carry it home and it will wipe out the entire colony. This may take up to 2 weeks. Replenish the bait when it dries out. This also works with cockroaches and silverfish.

BORON (B) is in **BORAX & BORIC ACID.**

BORIC ACID is: H_3BO_3 (also called 'sassolite') can be mined or made synthetically. It is also used as an eye wash, cleaner, wood treatment, to make fiberglass, ant killer & more.

BORAX is: $Na_2H_{20}B_4O_{17}$ & is mined or made synthetically. It is used as a cleaner, ant killer, in glue, in water softening & more. (It can be used instead of Boric Acid but may not be as effective.)

Spiders, mites, and ticks are unlikely to eat crystallized boric acid in their food sources. They are better dealt with sprinkling **DIATOMACEOUS EARTH** around areas where they are.

There are dozens of other recipes for ants & their friends (aphids) using garlic, vinegar, soaps, baking soda, oil, tomato leaves....)

YELLOW JACKET WASPS



They have huge colonies underground and attack when disturbed. Fortunately, they can be easily poisoned with a pinch of **BORIC ACID** in apple juice (or other sweet drink) and **carry the poison back to their queen**--thus destroying the entire colony. Hang a plastic bottle with 2-3 cups of apple juice and about 1 Tsp boric acid--well mixed. Make sure to put a long stick in it so they can get out & carry the poison home. Note: a little tuna will repel honey-bees (but they probably won't drink it anyway).

HORNET WASPS

Some hornets look like yellow jackets.



One antidote to having hornets live near your home is to make a brown bag look like a hornet nest--stuff it with paper or plastic bags and hang it up.

They're territorial and, if fooled, will go live elsewhere.

CARPENTER BEES

Carpenter bees are good pollinators and prefer flowers--especially if wood is newly varnished. But, a homemade paper hornet nest also



If you do use a commercial spray for yellow jacket wasps, be sure to first



observe and identify the **flight pattern** that they fly into their ground nest. **Don't stand in that path!**

Lastly, one farmer was able to eliminate a yellow jacket nest late at night by pouring about a gallon of Dawn Dish Detergent into the active nest and then flooding it with water the next day. Wasps have a protective oily layer and the soap destroys that.

STINK BUGS

This isn't a quick fix. It's just a way to keep the stink bug population down.

Fill a small jar 1/2 way with water and screw on the lid. Keep it handy and every time you see a stink bug, open the jar and put it under the bug--he'll almost always fall in. Put the lid back on and keep doing it. Every few days, dump the bug-water away from your property (smell attracts more bugs).

FLEAS, TICKS, SPIDERS...

Soft bodied insects are best eliminated with safe (to animals & humans) crushed up diatom shells that are used in nutritional supplements (90% silica).

It's called **DIATOMACEOUS EARTH**. Be sure to get 'food grade' if you want to use it in your water or food (or your pet's water or food) to kill parasites.

Cedarwood, tea tree, lemon, & lavender & other essential oils repel all bugs. Dilute with witch hazel & aloe.