



by Lesley Aine Mckeown

### **All-in-one homemade insecticide spray**, From [Rodale's Organic Life](#) .

puree 1 bulb of garlic, 1 small onion, 1 teaspoon of cayenne pepper powder  
Let steep for an hour. Strain the mixture and add 1 tablespoon of liquid soap and mix well. To apply this homemade insecticide, spray it full-strength onto both the upper surface of the leaves, as well as the undersides, and store the remainder in the refrigerator for up to a week if desired.

### **Soap Spray**

This is tried and true for getting rid of aphids and mites, works by dissolving the outer shell of the insect, which is necessary for their survival. Simply add a tablespoon of natural soap (Like Dr. Bronners) to a gallon of water. Pour it into a spray bottle and apply it to pests like aphids and mites. Works great on roses!

### **Herbal Insect Spray**

Essential oils from sage, thyme, basil, rosemary, mint, rue and lavender repel some insects. To create a spray, take crushed leaves or trimmings, soak in a bucket of water overnight and strain through a sieve. Or, dilute some store-bought essential oil with water. You can also plant these herbs in your yard to detract insects.

### **Slug Trap**

You can create a simple trap by using a plastic container and stale beer.  
Simply place the container into the ground, about an inch above the soil level and in the area of the infestation. Pour enough beer to fill the container about two inches deep. The slugs will be attracted to the beer, and when they go to drink it, they'll get trapped. You can also make a slug trap by using a large orange rind or grapefruit rind. Use about half of the rind of the fruit and invert it so that you have a bowl. Add a little water to the bottom.

### **Hot Pepper Spray**

Great for insects and mammals chewing on your plants, but be very careful, too much will burn and kill your plants. Spray only in the evening.

- 2 cups of water
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 teaspoon liquid dish soap
- 1 teaspoon canola oil
- 1 tablespoon cayenne pepper or 1 large jalapeno pepper

**Directions:** Puree the mixture in a blender and sprinkle it on pest infected plants up to 4 days before harvesting. It will need to be repeated if it rains. You can strain the mixture and place it in a spray bottle for a smoother application. Use