



FROM THE FILES OF THE DIRT DIVA DIARIES

Natural Pest Control Recipe Cards

DIY Remedies to Keep Your Garden Bug-Free

No need for harsh chemicals! These homemade pest control recipes are safe, effective, and surprisingly easy to make. Cut out these cards, laminate them if you like, and keep them in your potting shed all season long. Your garden (and your family!) will thank you.

✦ **HOMEMADE PEST CONTROL RECIPES**

🧄 **Garlic Spray**

BEST FOR

Aphids, whiteflies, spider mites, and soft-bodied insects

INGREDIENTS

- 1 bulb of garlic (or 4–5 cloves), minced
- 1 quart of water
- 1 tbsp dish soap

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mince garlic and steep in water overnight (or 24 hours)
2. Strain out garlic pieces
3. Add dish soap to the liquid
4. Pour into spray bottle and spray affected plants
5. Spray every 7–10 days as needed

PRO TIP

Spray in early morning or late evening to avoid leaf burn. Reapply after rain.

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🌿 **Neem Oil Mix**

BEST FOR

Aphids, mites, mealybugs, scale insects, and fungal diseases

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tbsp neem oil (available at garden centers)
- 1 gallon of water
- 1 tbsp dish soap or insecticidal soap

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mix neem oil and soap together first (they mix better)
2. Add to water and stir well
3. Pour into spray bottle
4. Spray all plant surfaces (tops and undersides of leaves)
5. Repeat every 7 days until pests are gone

PRO TIP

Never spray in direct sun or extreme heat. Apply in early morning or evening. Not safe for flowers in bloom — spray after harvest.

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🧼 **Insecticidal Soap**

BEST FOR

Soft-bodied insects (aphids, whiteflies, spider mites, scales)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tbsp pure dish soap (Dawn or Castile)
- 1 quart of water
- Optional: 1 tbsp vegetable oil (helps it stick)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mix soap and water in a spray bottle
2. Add oil if desired
3. Shake well to combine
4. Spray affected plants thoroughly (coat all leaves)
5. Spray every 5–7 days as needed

PRO TIP

Use pure soap, not antibacterial or hand soap. Test on a leaf first to ensure it won't damage tender plants.

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✦ **HOMEMADE PEST CONTROL RECIPES (CONTINUED)**

Hot Pepper Spray

BEST FOR

Aphids, caterpillars, beetles, and many crawling insects

INGREDIENTS

- 3–4 hot peppers (jalapeños or habaneros), chopped
- 1 quart of water
- 1 tbsp dish soap

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Blend peppers with a little water
2. Let mixture steep overnight
3. Strain out pepper pieces
4. Add to remaining water with dish soap
5. Spray on affected plants
6. Reapply every 7–10 days

PRO TIP

Wear gloves when handling hot peppers! Don't touch your face. This spray burns! Pests will hate it.

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Baking Soda Fungicide

BEST FOR

Powdery mildew, fungal infections, and leaf spot diseases

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tbsp baking soda
- 1 gallon of water
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 tbsp dish soap

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Dissolve baking soda in water
2. Add oil and soap
3. Mix well in spray bottle
4. Spray all plant surfaces (tops and bottoms of leaves)
5. Spray every 7–10 days for prevention

PRO TIP

Spray in evening or early morning. Use for PREVENTION — start before you see disease signs.

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Natural Spray Success Tips

- **Safety first:** Spray in early morning or late evening. Wear gloves and avoid contact with eyes.
- **Be persistent:** One spray rarely solves the problem. Repeat every 7–10 days for 2–3 weeks.
- **Test first:** Spray one leaf and wait 24 hours to ensure it won't harm your plant.
- **Keep it fresh:** Make small batches. Most sprays are best used within a few days.
- **Combine methods:** Use beneficial insects, netting, and hand-removal alongside sprays for best results.