Non-toxic Pest Control Recipes

Protect your home, garden & the Bay

Using pesticides to control bugs—whether inside the home or outside in the garden—can harm beneficial insects like bees, spiders, beetles and ladybugs. These good bugs can help keep garden pests like aphids, scale, mealybugs and mites in check. Try these simple recipes for non-toxic pest control in your home. You can read more about other less-toxic ways to manage pests at www.ourwaterourworld.org.

Non-toxic pest control

Place this label on any clean plastic spray bottle. Use the recipe best suited to your needs. Always test the recipe on an inconspicuous leaf. Wait 24-48 hours to ensure there is no damage to your plants. Also, even though these recipes are non-toxic, keep them out of the reach of children & pets.

Insects and fungal diseases:

Combine one tablespoon of cooking oil, 3/4 teaspoon of baking soda and a few drops of liquid soap (such as dish soap) into a quart of water. Pour into a spray container and apply.

Ants

Mix water and liquid soap, and spray ants directly. If you have a colony in the walls, you may also have to use a bait trap.

Powdery mildew:

Mix equal parts milk and water, and spray on infected plants. Three treatments, a week apart, should control the disease.

Soft-bodied insects (mites, aphids, mealybugs):

Mix one tablespoon canola oil and a few drops of liquid soap into a quart of water. Shake well and pour into a spray bottle. Spray plant from above and below to reach all sides of the leaves. The oil smothers the insects.

Protecting Alameda County Creeks, Wetlands & the Bay