

Make Your Own Natural Pest Spray

This all-purpose garden insect control combines the repellent effects of garlic, onion, and hot pepper with the insecticidal properties of soap.

From The Organic Gardener's Handbook of Natural Pest and Disease Control: A Complete Guide to Maintaining a Healthy Garden and Yard the Earth-Friendly Way, A Rodale Organic Gardening Book edited by Fern Marshall Bradley, Barbara W. Ellis, and Deborah L. Martin

This spray combines the repellent effects of garlic, onion, and hot pepper with the insecticidal and surfactant properties of soap. Keep in mind that sprays that contain soap may harm natural enemies and pollinating insects. Apply it only to prevent or ease a specific pest problem.

Home gardeners can try homemade all-purpose spray against any leaf-eating pests in the garden, and make a note of what pests are successfully controlled.

Precautions

The ingredients can cause painful skin and eye irritation. When preparing and applying, wear rubber gloves and keep the mixture well away from your eyes and nose.

Ingredients

- 1 garlic bulb
- 1 small onion
- 1 teaspoon of powdered cayenne pepper
- 1 quart of water
- 1 tablespoon liquid dish soap



Photo from marthastewart.com

Directions

Chop, grind, or liquefy garlic and onion. Add cayenne pepper and mix with water. Steep 1 hour, strain through cheesecloth, then add liquid dish soap. Mix well. Spray your plants thoroughly, including the undersides of the leaves. Store the mixture for up to a week in a labeled, covered container in the refrigerator.