

Organic Solutions for Plant Problems

(Compiled by Andres Mejides)

A few of the most benign alternatives to chemicals:

1. Compost: Fertilize your plants with it, use it as a foliar spray for supplying micro nutrients and to prevent and cure disease.
2. Do nothing: Wait a day or two, watch for predatory insects to show up.
3. Beneficial Insects and/or Nematodes: Attract these to your garden or buy them through mail-order.
4. Garden Hose: Use your garden hose to spray pests off plants.
5. Two Block Method: No insect has ever developed a resistance to this method.
6. Row covers: A light weight fabric used to keep insects off the plants.
7. Sticky Traps: Lures are coated with a non-drying sticky substance.
8. Garlic or Hot Pepper Sprays: Used to repel or confuse pests.
9. Soap: True soap NOT detergent! Amway, Castille and Dr. Bronner's are some real soaps. Use ¼ teaspoon per gallon, up to 1 teaspoon per gallon.
10. Insecticidal Soaps: Safer's, Ringe's, ETC. If you use the concentrate adjust the PH of the water.
11. Oil: Super refined horticulture oil, such as Sunspray. Remember the rule of the 140.
12. Diatomaceous Earth: Not the kind from the pool supply or pet shops

Some Pest-Specific Alternatives:

13. Semaspore: For grasshoppers, crickets, and katydids.
14. Beer: For slugs and snail.
15. Copper Tape: For slugs and snails
16. Bacillus Thuringiensis: Marketed as Safer's Caterpillar Killer, Dipel, Thuricide. The brand known as MVP is NOT organic!
17. Boric Acid: For ants, roaches, and other specific household pests.

Some Broad-Spectrum, Plant Derived Insecticides:

18. Neem
19. Pyrethrum
20. Rotenone
21. Sabadilla

Two Broad-Spectrum VERY TOXIC Pest and Disease Solutions:

22. Sulphur
23. Copper

How to find these products if you can't get them locally:

Gardens Alive (catalog)
100 Schenley Place
Lawrenceburg, Indiana 47025

Planet Natural (catalog)
1-800-289-6656

OG Magazine
Newsstands or
Organicgardening.com

For more information on Organic Gardening classes at MDC:
Call Kendall Campus Environmental Center: (305) 237-2605