

DIY TREATMENTS FOR YOUR GARDEN

When to Spray: *Never spray anything on your plants during the hottest part of the day. Water left on leaves can burn your plants on a hot, bright afternoon. Water and treat your plants either in the evening, or better yet, in the very early morning. Also, these sprays will need to be reapplied after each rain for best results.*

Compost Tea: Good for All Plants and Especially Containers

Give your plants a jolt of superfoods by making this concentrated compost tea. This will help improve disease/pest-resistance, and have you have a stronger garden overall. It's also kind of like brewing a big mug of compost coffee! To make: Get a 5 gallon bucket and a gallon-size bag of compost, and mix together. Stir daily to promote anaerobic activity (or you can add a fish tank aquarium pump for aeration). After a week, strain your compost tea through a large cloth and throw the extra solids into the garden. Apply an inch to your plants every week.

Egg Shells for End Blossom Rot

Prevent Egg Blossom Rot with Eggshells. Wash your eggshells, crush into tiny pieces and work the shell pieces into the soil near tomatoes and peppers. The calcium helps fend off blossom end rot. Eggshells are 93% calcium carbonate, the same ingredient as lime, a tried and true soil amendment.

Cornmeal as a Natural Weed Suppressant

Before weed seeds sprout, sprinkle cornmeal to prevent new seeds from germinating and cut down on your weed pulling this year. Make sure to get organic/non-gmo corn gluten meal (a company called Earth Easy sells a good one, or you can use organic food grade corn meal from the Whole Foods. Just sprinkle a few cups around your garden to prevent new weed seeds from sprouting. But be careful, this will also prevent your garden seeds from sprouting, so only use on areas where you plan on planting transplants!

Pepper Plant Epsom Salt Spray

The magnesium sulfate in Epsom Salt helps pepper plants grow bushier, produce more flowers, increase chlorophyll production and deters pests, such as slugs and voles. It also provides vital nutrients to supplement your regular fertilizer. To make, dissolve 2 tablespoons of epsom salts in a spray bottle of warm water. Shake well before using and spray on pepper plants every 2 weeks.

Fight-the-Blight Tomato Milk Spray

Milk is a natural fungicide, and there are tons of messages in newsgroups and forums talking about how great milk is for killing spores and helping tomatoes build up an immunity to fungal diseases like blight. To make, mix one part milk to two parts water and spray directly on your plants every week and help strengthen your plants against blight.