



THE LANDSCAPE CONSULTANTS

Your design and installation team



Natural Pesticides and Companion Planting

There are many plants that can be used to make natural pesticides from or that you can plant with other plants to deter pests. By using these natural methods we will be helping our environment and ourselves.

Here are some plants that you can grow to make natural pesticides from.

Mountain Tobacco – this is a night blooming annual that grows to 4 feet and has pointed leaves. Mix 1 tsp. of powdered dry leaves with 1 tsp. of dishwashing detergent into a gallon of water and spray on plant.

Kentucky coffee tree – can be raised in a container. Bruise the foliage and sprinkle with sugar water, this will attract flies and kill them.

Black Locust – Robinia – excellent shade tree. Bruised foliage sprinkled with sugar will attract and kill flies.

Rosemary – Rosemarinus officinalis – aromatic, evergreen shrub with pale blue flowers. Powdered rosemary leaves are a very effective flea and tick repellent. Dust onto the pet and where the pet sleeps. Sprinkle on and around plants to discourage carrot flies, slugs and snails.

Wormwood – Artemisia absinthium – hardy perennial with gray, silky foliage. Powdered dust from this plant sprinkled around other plants will deter many insects. This is not a toxic plant; the insects just don't like the smell.

Pennyroyal – Mentha pelugium – perennial herb with fragrant lavender flowers. Ground pennyroyal is one of the most effective tick repellents. Dust area where pets sleep. Sprinkle around plants to repel squash bugs, cucumber beetle and slugs.

Lavender – Lavendula – aromatic perennial with gray/green foliage and tall flower spikes. Dried lavender placed in drawers with clothing will deter moths.

Chrysanthemum coccineum – Pyrethrum – perennial daisy that blooms in May – June. The flower heads are used to make the best natural pesticide available. The brown powder that you get from crushing the flower heads will kill or stun the insect on contact. However the dried powder only lasts for a few days, so if you can store some dried flower heads in the freezer for crushing when you need them.

Gopher spruce - Euphorbia latyrus – biannual plant that needs to be grown from seed. The milky juice in its root, gophers and moles cannot stand. However the juice can cause skin and eye burning.

Fleabane daisy - Erigeron – annual plant that grows to 24” tall with violet daisy like flowers. Grow in the garden to control insects and rub the green leaves on your clothing or pets to repel fleas, mosquitoes, ticks, gnats and flies.

Garlic – Allium sativum - 100 % fresh garlic powder with no additives sprinkled around plants will discourage aphids, slugs and cutworms.

Rue - Ruta graveolens – rue powder makes a great flea repellent on dogs but cats can be sensitive to it. Sprinkle on and around plants to discourage many types of worms and leaf chewers.

Tansy - Tanacetum vulgare – this plant ground to a powder is effective in discouraging ants from the garden. Also good against whitefly and potato beetle.

Thyme - Thymus vulgaris – this perennial herb made into a powder can be sprinkled on and around plants to deter cabbage loopers, potato beetles and tomato worms.

Peppermint - Menta piperta – this perennial herb has a delightful aroma. Sprinkled around will discourage ants, squash bugs and cutworms.

Dill - Anethum graveolens – this powder made from dill seeds will be effective against cabbage worms and tomato worms.

Cayenne pepper - Capsicum annum – pure ground pepper with no additives will be very hot so use gloves when handling and avoid contact with your eyes. To make a pepper spray, mix 4 tbsp. of pepper powder and one tbsp. liquid dishwashing detergent in one gallon of water. Leave overnight, then strain and then spray on insects. Mix 4 tbsp. pepper powder with ½ cup cooking oil and pour over 5 lbs. of bird seed. This will deter squirrels from stealing your bird’s seed, the birds do not taste the pepper and the squirrels can not stand the taste.

Companion planting is a way of deterring pest on one plant by planting another plant beside that the pest does not like. There are a few to try.

Lemon Basil – Ocimum – this tender annual herb has a lemony fragrance that when planted by tomatoes will improve the taste of the tomatoes, as well as deter white fly.

Garlic - Allium sativum – if you plant this bulb in your rose garden it will help to deter aphids.

Tomato – if you plant out a few tomatoes between your rose bushes the gases that the tomatoes give off will help prevent fungus on your roses.

Here are a few homemade remedies to try.

- 1 cup garlic gloves
- 2 cups water

Puree in a blender and then strain through cheesecloth. Apply to upper and lower leaves and the soil surface around plants to discourage pests. The smell will dissipate in a few days.

- 1 tbsp. vinegar
- 2 quarts water

Mix together and apply directly to the soil to eradicate mould on the soil.

At last! Something good to do with your unwanted horsetail.

- 1.25 ozs. Dried or cut horsetail
- 1 gallon water

Boil for 15-20 mins. Then cool and strain. Spray on plants for mildew and fungus control.

- 3 ozs. Chopped garlic
- 3.5 tbsp. mineral oil
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Soak for 24 hrs. Then slowly add to soapy water made from one pint of water and ½ tsp. dish soap. Stir well and strain through fine cheesecloth. Store in a glass jar and then dilute when needed at a rate of 1:20 for large insects, 1:100 for sucking insects. This will kill caterpillars and weevils but may damage leaves and flowers if sprayed to heavily.