

Garlic Fire Spray

Here is the recipe I have for the natural pesticide "Garlic Fire Spray". I used it last year, particularly on my broccoli, to keep the cabbage moths away. It worked beautifully. Spray it on both the top and underside of the leaf to eliminate any larvae and/or eggs. I also sprayed it on the ground around my Swiss chard and spinach and it seemed to take care of the leaf miners, too. If it doesn't rain, it will last a couple of weeks; reapply if it rains. You don't have to cover the plant with it, just spritz some on; I assume the smell masks the attractive smell of the broccoli. Works for all cole/brassicas: Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, etc., as well as many other plants.

You may want to wear eye protection when spraying, and be sure to wash any exposed skin really well.

Uses for this natural garden pest control are unlimited. Because it has oil and dishwashing liquid in it, it sticks to plants as well as suffocating pests such as scale and mealy bug. It will kill ants, aphids, caterpillars, grubs, bugs and just about anything small. **SO BE VERY SELECTIVE — MIND THE LADYBUGS, LACEWINGS, BEES AND OTHER BENEFICIAL FRIENDS.**

Spraying this mixture around the edge of your garden will deter pets. Rabbits, gophers, woodchucks and other garden gatecrashers will also be discouraged.

Garlic fire spray is the stuff of legend. There are many recipes, but they consist of some or all of the following: garlic, chili peppers, soap, vegetable oil, kerosene and water. Depending on its strength it will slay most garden pests.

The brew I use at the moment is very effective and goes like this:

- 2-3 garlic bulbs (about 6-10 cloves per bulb)
- 6 large or 12 smaller hot chili peppers (I use habaneros, but any variety will do, or try 1-2 tablespoon hot chili powder)
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 3 squirts of liquid dish detergent
- 7 cups water. (Use about 2-3 cups in the blender, and top up with the rest later)

Put the whole lot into a blender and puree well, then strain through a fine mesh sieve, cheesecloth, a coffee filter or similar. Pour what you need into a spray bottle for use and keep the rest, in jars with lids, in the fridge or on a shelf somewhere, well labeled.

Experiment with it as necessary and check for results or any damage to young plants. If it fixes the problem and your plants are happy, you've got the perfect mix, but if there are still a few biggie pests, albeit struggling, then lower the water dilution rate or change the ingredient quantities slightly.

Lovely, garlicky, pungent stuff, the smell dissipates quickly once it's been sprayed around. This garlic fire mixture needs to be re-sprayed frequently, such as after rain and dew. It's best to spray every few days until there's no sign of pests, then about every week to 10 days for any eggs or larvae that may have hatched out.