

# PEST PATROL

Gardeners have been dealing with all sorts of pests for thousands of years. For us do-it-yourselfers, there are plenty of home remedies that can be used. Here's a few of my favorites:

## Ammonia

To keep wasps away from ripening fruit, mix equal parts of ammonia and water, and fill several cans with the mixture. Hang the cans among your fruit trees.



## Garlic

The strong smell of garlic apparently offends as many bugs as it does people. To make this tonic, cut up 6 cloves of garlic, mix them with 1 tbsp. of baby shampoo in 1 quart of water, and spray it on plants to repel bugs. Also, cut up 2 or 3 cloves and sprinkle them among your rose bushes to keep the aphids away.



## Aluminum Foil

When placed on the soil around plants, aluminum foil will deter aphids, thrips, moths, and other destructive (and disease-spreading) insects. How? The light reflecting off the foil confuses the bugs so much that they can't land, so they head elsewhere for dinner. Just be sure to poke holes a few inches apart in the foil so that water can get down to the plants' roots. Also, check on it periodically to make sure the shiny covering isn't reflecting too much hot sun onto the foliage. If the plants' lower leaves appear dry or crinkled, remove the foil immediately.

### All-Season Clean-up Tonic

**1 cup of baby shampoo, and  
1 cup antiseptic mouthwash.**

Mixed in your 20 gallon hose-end sprayer.  
Apply to everything in your yard every  
2 weeks throughout the growing season.

## Soap

A diluted dishwashing liquid mix will suffocate soft-bodied insects (like aphids) if sprayed directly on them. But be careful—cucumbers and melons may be sensitive to soap sprays, so test small areas first.

## Salt

Nothing melts a slug into a pile of goo like salt. And as a matter of fact, saltwater makes a great insect control. The downside is that you've got to spray it several times a week to be effective...and keep it away from your plants if you know what's good for 'em!

