



OUTDOORS

Barbecue Grills

- Cut an **onion** in half and rub on a warm to hot grill. This will remove grease and also coat the grill with “oil” from the onion. If the grill still seems dry, brush on some olive oil.

Concrete

- For grease and oil spills, sprinkle **cornmeal**, **sawdust** or **cat-litter** over spill. Allow it to sit for several hours and once the spill is absorbed, sweep up.

Insect (& other pests) Repellents

Note: The most effective option is often to encourage (or at least not discourage) helpful spiders and insects that prey on insects we don't want- consider purchasing some ladybugs from a local nursery or through mail order.

All-purpose insect repellent

- Mix a tablespoon (or two) of **liquid soap** (like Dr Bronners Pure Castile Soap) with a quart of **water** and pour into a spray bottle. This has potential to kill plants as well, so follow the measurements carefully.
- If the above recipe does not do it, add the following to the recipe: Put a handful of: **garlic**, **onion**, **horseradish**, **ginger**, **rhubarb leaves** or **cayenne** (or any combination of them) in the bottom of a jar and cover with **boiling water**, screw on the lid, let it sit overnight and strain into the spray bottle filled with the water/ soap mixture. This must be used right away or frozen as it will rot.
- Soak two or three cloves of **minced garlic** in two teaspoons of **mineral oil** for 24 hours. Add a pint of **water** and five drops of **dish soap**. Stir well and strain into a container for storage. **NOTE:** This is ultra concentrated! Before using combine 1-2 tablespoons of the mixture with 1 pint of water in a spray bottle. This can kill or damage sensitive plants and it will kill good bugs as well as the bad- use this as a last resort or in extreme cases.

Ants

- Place **cucumber peels** over any ant hills and the surrounding areas
- To prevent ants from coming into the house, find out where the ants are coming in and create a barrier using fresh or powdered **sage**.
- If the ants are coming in along windows, make a thick powdered line along window sills and keep fresh potted sage plants in the windows.
- Mix a simple solution using equal parts of **vinegar** and **water**. Apply the solution to a rag and generously wipe down the area to keep ants away.
- You can also add peppermint essential oil, as ants hate peppermint.

Aphids

- Dissolve one teaspoon of **baking soda** and one teaspoon of **dish soap** into a quart of **warm water**. Put into a spray bottle and use often on garden plants and leaves.

Deer & Rabbits

- Place one to two bulbs of **garlic** (minced) in the bottom of a jar and pour **boiling water** over the top, screw on the lid, allow it to sit overnight, pour into a spray bottle and spray around the area –use it all as it will rot. (Or freeze what is left over.)

Moths

- Instead of moth balls, store clean clothing in airtight containers or sealed bags with **cedar blocks, shavings** or **oil**. Also, place cedar in drawers and closets.
- Inspect any used clothing or furniture carefully for both moths and larvae before bringing them into the house, or clean them first.
- The heat of the **dryer** will kill larvae and eggs as will storing clothes in the **freezer** for several days.
- Vigorously shaking clothes will also remove larvae and eggs (remember to vacuum well afterwards).

Silverfish

- Make traps with a mixture of one part **molasses** to two parts **vinegar**. Place near cracks or holes where pests live.
- Repel silverfish by applying a mixture of **borax** and **sugar** (or honey) to base boards and cupboards.

Rust Removers

- Make a paste of **salt** and **lime juice**. Rub the paste onto the area and leave in place for several hours. Follow by scouring until the rust is gone.

Weed Killers

- If the weeds are together in a rather small area, try pouring **boiling water** on them.
- Cover the area with **newspaper, cardboard**, or a **tarp** to block out sunlight- weight down the cover and leave for 4 weeks (or longer if necessary). The cardboard and newspaper have the added benefit of serving as mulch if left in place and will essentially decompose creating more fertile soil. This method may not be effective on plants with rhizomes- they will typically spread across the ground until they reach light.
- Pulling or digging is underrated & incredibly effective- be sure to get the entire root. Many plants (especially thistles) will return if any portion of their root is left behind. Continue to dig these up until you have gotten rid of it for good.
- Allow your grass to grow a little longer, because longer grass fights off weeds- combine this with pulling and you will have next to no weeds!

Natural Herbicide

- Boil one gallon of **vinegar**, and add one cup of **salt**, stir to dissolve and allow to cool. Add about 8 drops of **dish soap** and mix. Pour into a spray bottle- the rest can be saved in the vinegar bottle (don't forget to re-label it). Apply by spraying or pouring the mix onto undesirable plants. This will kill any plant it contacts so be careful around those that you like.