

Pest Control the Organic Way

The Edible Garden



Gardening organically gives you an advantage managing garden pests by encouraging natural biological control.

A good gardener works towards a garden teeming with life and with the many insects and creatures keeping each other in check, without rocking the boat too much by using sprays.

Squeezing the bugs between your fingers is a good, easy and very successful way of getting rid of the bad guys.

Every now and then you might just need a little extra help. To stop those naughty critters getting to your vegies before you do, try this easy to make, knockdown garlic and chilli spray. It's important to remember though not to aim for perfection and to do as little harm as possible. Try not to outgun nature.

Uses for this natural garden pest spray are unlimited. The oil and dishwashing liquid in it makes the spray stick to the plants as well as suffocating the pests. It will kill caterpillars, scale, aphids and just about anything small. So please — use with caution and mind the ladybirds, lacewings, bees and all our other beneficial friends.

Garlic and Chilli Fire Spray

Make this recipe with a grown up and wear gloves handling chillies. Keep away from your eyes.



Ingredients

- 2 to 3 garlic bulbs
- 12 small hot chillies
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 dessertspoon liquid dishwashing detergent
- 7 cups water (use 2-3 cups in blender and add the rest after straining mixture).

Method

1. Place all the ingredients in a blender and process till smooth.
2. Strain the mixture through a fine cloth (muslin, old tights or a coffee filter).
3. Top up with remaining water and mix well.
4. Pour into spray bottle for immediate use and store the rest in well labelled jars with lids.

Wear gloves when spraying and ensure mixture does not come in contact with your skin or eyes. Use only under adult supervision.