

# DIY Organic Pesticides

This playbook provides a guide to creating safe and effective organic pesticides using natural ingredients. It outlines the steps necessary for mixing and applying these homemade alternatives to chemical pesticides.

## Step 1: **Ingredient Selection**

Choose natural ingredients known for their pest-repellent properties. Common options include neem oil, garlic, chili peppers, and essential oils such as peppermint or rosemary.

## Step 2: **Preparation**

Prepare your ingredients. This may involve crushing garlic cloves, mincing chili peppers, or diluting essential oils or neem oil with water and a small amount of soap to create an emulsion.

## Step 3: **Mixing**

Combine the prepared ingredients in a container. Ensure that the mixture is well blended. Depending on the chosen recipe, this may require stirring or shaking to integrate the ingredients properly.

## Step 4: **Straining**

Use a fine mesh strainer or cheesecloth to strain the mixture. This step is important to prevent clogging of the spray nozzle in the next step.

## Step 5: **Bottle Filling**

Carefully pour the strained organic pesticide into a clean spray bottle. Ensure the bottle is properly labeled with the contents and date of creation.

## Step 6: **Application**

Spray the DIY organic pesticide onto the leaves of the plants, covering both the tops and undersides where pests typically reside. Do not apply during the heat of the day to avoid burning the plants.

## Step 7: **Observation**

After the application, observe the plants over several days for signs of pest reductions and any adverse reactions. Adjust the mixture and application frequency as needed for effectiveness and plant health.

## Step 8: **Storage**

Store any leftover pesticide in a cool, dark place. Be aware that without preservatives, the shelf life of these organic mixtures will be shorter than commercial products.

# **General Notes**

## **Safety Precautions**

Always wear protective gloves and eyewear when handling spicy or strong-scented ingredients. Keep DIY pesticides away from children and pets.

## Spot Testing

It is recommended to perform a spot test on your plants before widespread application of the new pesticide to ensure it does not harm the plant.

## Consistency

Maintain consistency in the preparation of your pesticide for reliable results. Document ingredient ratios and steps taken for future reference.