

## THE DOCTOR PRESCRIBES WATER

Yes you are hearing correctly The garden Doctor. Doctor Suzi is prescribing water, the source of life, to get rid of aphids.

This spring aphids have been plaguing all the brassicas plants to death. Well, the best way to get rid of aphids is forceful water and diligence. You must use a spray of forceful water, making sure to get under each leaf. You can not leave this step out. If you forget a leaf you are in for it. Each female leaves about 40 to 60 offspring.

That cycle starts very rapidly again in another 10 days or so. In a matter of a few weeks if you missed a dozen of those bad boys there are now hundreds or thousands depending on what has been eating them.

Spray them off every two days and then when you think you have it under control, do it two more times for good measure. The reason being is that they are so small you can easily miss one and it starts over again. Lets follow the old adage, better safe than sorry.

Increasing beneficial insects are a great way to reduce the number of aphids. The natural enemies of the aphids are ladybugs, hover fly larva, parasitic wasps, aphid midge larva, crab spiders, lacewings, entomopathogenic fungi. Plant mint, fennel, dill, yarrow, clover and dandelions for lacewings. Ladybugs like cilantro as well as carrot flowers. Herb flowers are always a treat for beneficials. You must remember to plant flowers that are small flat and open for the beneficial insects. They need a source of carbohydrates to eat and they also need water to drink. You want to keep them around so that they will eat the bugs when they are in your garden.

You can also use Safer Insecticidal Soap. This will not hurt beneficial insects. You can only use it 3 times in a row so make it count, spray the plants off with water first and let them dry. Why?

It is much more efficient to spray off all the aphid that you can with water and then apply the soap for the kill. If you do not wash them off first, they may be stacked three or four deep and the soap may not penetrate through all of the aphids. The reason you want to let the plants dry after washing off the aphids is because you will dilute the soap solution and then it will not be as effective.

You can also make your own sprays as well and they are much more inexpensive. Remember that overall soil health and fertility are your best defense. When the plants are strong and healthy they can fend off attacks. Think about you and the flu. You usually get the flu when you are run down and stressed out. Don't run down your plants by not feeding them or watering them. Keep them healthy, don't overcrowd them. Aphids love overcrowded plants, they thrive in them.

Remember when making these bug sprays that they still harm/kill beneficial insects as well. So try to wash the little buggers off first, and then resort to steps as far as spraying.

Remember to strain the solids out or the solids will not and the effectiveness will be gone, when they start rotting. Good Luck getting rid of these guys. Let me know what worked for you! I want to hear your stories, good and bad, that is what ties us all together and helps us all learn form each other.

**Homemade Insecticidal Soap**  
1-2 Tbl Liquid Castile Soap (Not Detergent)  
1 Quart Water



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### **Bug Juice Spray**

2 bulbs garlic

2 cayenne / habanero peppers

Liquify first two ingredients in a blender 1/3 full of water. Strain and add enough water to make 1 gallon. Add 1/4 cup of this mixed concentrate per gallon per water. Add 2 Tbl H<sub>2</sub>O if you want it stronger

### **Green Onion Remedy**

But Garlic and green onions in blender liquify and strain, add soap flakes. Spray onto garden in morning when aphids are feeding, leave on for 1/2 hour, then rinse.

### **From US Patent Office**

2# garlic

2# water (32 oz.)

Treats 2,500 square feet

### **Aphid Spray**

1 Cup vegetable Oil

or White Mineral Oil

1-1/2 Cups Water

2 tsp Dish Soap or Murphy's Oil Soap

Spray every few days