

PEST CONTROL METHODS

1. Captain Jack's-for leaf chewing insects-available at Ferris Farm Agway, 690 Cranbury Rd., East Brunswick, NJ
2. Neem - for powdery mildew, arthropod pests including aphids, mites, and whiteflies - available at Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership, 85 Washington Ave., Milltown, NJ. They are usually available by appointment by calling 732-249-5297 or by emailing Ray Seaman at rseaman@verizon.net. They also sell a whole line of organic lawn care products.
3. Plant marigolds in your plot. They keep some insects away.

4. Deluxe Baking Soda Spray

1 ½ TBSP baking soda
1 TBSP insecticide soap
1 TBSP canola oil
1 cup plus 1 gallon water
1 TBSP vinegar
Pump sprayer

Directions: Mix baking soda, soap, and oil with 1 cup water. Add vinegar (don't mix vinegar until last or mixture may bubble over). Pour mixture into sprayer and add 1 gallon of water. Shake or stir to combine ingredients. Spray plants covering tops and bottoms of leaves. Spray weekly.

5. Shoo away flea beetles by dousing plants with potent mix of garlic and hot pepper.

Ingredients and supplies:

6 cloves garlic
Hammer
1 quart glass jar with lid
1 TBSP powdered or crushed pepper
1 quart warm water
Cheese cloth
Pump spray bottle.

Directions: Smash unpeeled garlic cloves with hammer. Put crushed garlic in glass jar. Add hot pepper and warm water. Screw on lid and shake mixture. Set jar in sun to steep for 2 days or more. If you pop off lid, take a sniff and your eyes water, then it is ready. Strain mixture through cheesecloth and pour liquid into spray bottle.

NOTE: Apply as soon as you see flea beetles and then reapply after rains or heavy dew. Since flea beetles feed on both sides of plant leaves, make sure plants are thoroughly drenched. As with any water based spray, this mixture can damage plant leaves if applied in middle of hot, sunny day.