

Hints on the Natural Weed Killer

By Joseph Parish

A reader recently conveyed an email message to me upon reading, and trying the inexpensive natural weed eater listed on the web site in April. (See April, 2020 Archives). In her email she rationalized how the natural remedy usually will work well with the cheaper white vinegar, rather than the more costly cider version. The cider vinegar frequently demands 3 times the cost of the more common white vinegar, I totally agree with her, use the white vinegar in your weed killer, and reserve the cider vinegar for use in your pickling recipes.

Often people brag about saving money by purchasing their vinegar at the Dollar Tree, however, before you do, consider this. For one dollar you are purchasing 24 ounces of vinegar, when you do the calculations, this equates to \$5.33 per gallon. Two gallons (64 Oz) of white vinegar would cost you \$4.00 at your local Walmart store, thus the dollar tree is not a thrifty solution. Usually, I discover that there are few foods sold at the Dollar Tree which constitute good value. If you know how to shop, and look for sale items, and bargains, you will do well in the regular grocery stores.

Just recently I became aware that one of the more popular manufacturers of vinegar was selling what I call a "fake" vinegar. Heinze company markets a product known as "Heinze Apple Cider Flavored Vinegar." One must read the labels very carefully. I purchased one of these, and noticed that the flavor failed to taste properly. Upon taking a closer look at the item which I had purchased, I discovered that it was "cider flavored." That was extremely disappointing take into consideration the reputation that the company had. I simply could not imagine that America's number one vinegar maker would

manufacture “fake” cider vinegar. Heinz has always been the only brand that my family purchased, and that included BBQ Sauce, Ketchup, Mustard, Pickles, Relishes, and of course the Vinegars. Since encountering this deception, I no longer purchase their products. Perhaps, this is one reason many people report that the natural weed killer does not work. Please read the labels carefully.

Another issue I found with the weed killer recipe is that if you experience a rainy day, you will likely have to reapply it. Always repeat the procedure several times to ensure that you are saturating the weeds with the liquid. Often, I have heard that it does not work as well with the white vinegar, but does a fantastic job with cider vinegar. Some people who use the apple cider vinegar have completely left out the salt, and reported successful results. Their logic was that salt does no good near plants, as it could leach into the soil, and eventually kill your plants.

Alternately, I have talked to several people who say they use the vinegar straight and spray during the heated part of the day, between noon and 2 PM. Others have simply used boiling water, while a butane torch often does the trick. Reverting to the old Round-up use, I have in the past discovered that it sometimes will not kill the weeds at all. I had tried several different concentrations from a 1:4 ratio, to full strength all to no avail. If this is the case, I conclude that I may as well save money, and go natural. I hope this article has opened your mind, and answered a few concerns that you may have with the natural weed control recipe.