

How to Make and Use Garlic Water Pesticide for Plants

By Zach

I've successfully used garlic water to remove spider mites, aphids, powdery mildew, and even fungus gnats from my own gardens.



Without the use of chemical pesticides, organic gardeners look solely to nature for ways to stop and prevent pest infestations. Luckily, nature is always willing to comply and gives garlic as a cure. It may come as a surprise, but yes, this small ground-dwelling bulb has a wide array of uses in the garden. The active sulfur compounds in garlic not only act as a powerful pesticide, they also eliminate fungus and deter grazing vermin. Best of all, you'll be able to free your plants of pests without leaving behind harmful chemicals or residues. Keep reading to learn how to make and use "garlic tea" to protect your plants.

Benefits of Garlic Water for Plants

A homemade garlic spray has many uses and can be applied to vegetable, fruit, ornamental, and indoor plants.

- **Natural Pesticide/Insecticide:** When used as a foliage spray, garlic is effective against aphids, Colorado potato beetles, whiteflies, bean beetles, cabbage worms, spider mites, moths (including the diamondback moth), ants, and termites. If used as a soil treatment, garlic water is a recognized treatment for nematodes and fungus gnats.
- **Natural Fungicide:** The active sulfur compounds will terminate a variety of fungal and mildew infestations. It is a very effective treatment and preventative measure for powdery mildew.
- **Natural Deterrent:** When used in combination with chilis, garlic works well as a deterrent against mice, rats, rabbits, voles, elk, and deer.

Recipe for Garlic-Based Fungicide/Pesticide Spray

Makes: 1 gallon

Costs: \$0.50—what a deal!

Ingredients:

- 1 small head of garlic—you can try substituting with garlic powder, but since it has been processed and dried, it may have lost a lot of potency. I've never tried it, but I feel that it won't be the same as fresh garlic.
- 2 cups of water

Instructions:

1. Process the head of garlic in a blender. Get the consistency as smooth as possible.
2. Add two cups of water to the blender and pulse a couple of times.
3. Pour the mixture into a glass container and let it sit in a covered, dark space for one day.
4. When ready to apply, strain off all the solids and dilute with enough water to get a total of one gallon of solution.
5. Store in the fridge when not in use.

To Apply:

Use a spray bottle to soak the tops and bottoms of each leaf in the infested area once every week until the problem ceases.

When using as a preventative measure, apply the garlic water only once every two weeks or after it rains.

Soak the infected soil thoroughly once a week to get rid of fungus gnats and nematodes.

Recipe for Garlic-Based Deterrent

Makes: 1 gallon

Cost: \$1.00

Ingredients:

- 1 small head of garlic
- 1 jalapeno, or 1 tablespoon of cayenne pepper

Instructions:

1. Process the head of garlic in a blender until you get a smooth consistency.
2. Add the jalapeno or tablespoon of cayenne pepper and blend a bit more.
3. Add two cups of water to the blender and pulse a couple of times.
4. Pour the mixture into a glass container and let it sit in a covered, dark space for one day.
5. When ready to apply, strain off all the solids and dilute with enough water to get a total of one gallon of solution.
6. Store in the fridge when not in use.

To Apply:

Thoroughly apply the solution to plants targeted by mice, rats, rabbits, deer, and elk once every two weeks or after it rains.

For prevention against voles, pour a barrier of the solution around your garden plants. Make sure there are no gaps in your barrier. Re-apply to the soil once every two weeks.

Precautionary Advice

The key to using a garlic water solution for plants is to use it in moderation! While the solution effectively eliminates pesky garden infestations, it can also negatively affect beneficial soil microbes if used too often. Through my own experiences, I've found that it should not be applied more than twice a week as a foliage spray or once a week as a soil treatment.

Final Word

Garlic water is seriously an effective treatment! I've used garlic water on a variety of house, garden, and ornamental plants with no damage at all (other than what the insects had already done). Even the most tender of plants showed no ill effects. Garlic is not a strong chemical and should not interfere or stunt your plants' growth or vigor. Overall, you'll be doing yourself and your plants a lot of good by using a homemade, natural, and organic garlic pesticide.

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