

# Gardening with Deb

## Problems in Your Garden and Solutions

### Building a compost pile

Step 1: Locate the spot. Mine is on the far side of the garden in the back corner.

Step 2: Dig up sod, turn it over and then wet the area slightly. (\*Compost Starter Tonic)

Step 3: Build a wire perimeter out of chicken wire or hardware cloth to keep pile shape. I have used old skids for this in the beginning because I didn't have money for anything else.

Step 4: Raise pile up off of the ground on a screen for better circulation. Again, I used a skid in an open end/open top container.

Step 5: Build the bottom layer of the pile out of sod or grass clippings. Make about 10"

Step 6: On sod;/grass clippings place a layer of old newspapers and wet them down thoroughly.

Step 7: Add a 2-foot-thick layer of well-rotted manure or other organic waste on papers.

Step 8: Add 4" or more grass clippings or any plant waste. (\*Compost Starter Tonic)

Step 9: Add more wet newspapers

Step 10: Sprinkle layer of topsoil.

Keep the pile around 4 feet high so that it is easier to manage.

### **\*Compost Starter Tonic**

To be added after grass clippings layer:

¼ cup beer  
¼ cup Ammonia  
1 gallon of water

## **Miami County OSU Extension Office**

**Address:**

510 W Water St  
Suite 250, 2nd floor  
Troy, Ohio 45373

**Phone:** 937-440-3945

**Link:** <https://extension.osu.edu/miami-county-office>

**Staff Directory:** <http://miami.osu.edu/about/staff>

**The following items can add to compost**

- Leaves
- Grass clippings
- Young weeds (these are weeds that have not gone to seed yet)
- Plant clippings
- Vegetable peeling
- Egg shells
- Coffee grounds
- Used tea leaves, soil
- Manure (from cows, horses, sheep, pigs or chickens)
- Rock powders (rock phosphate and granite dust, bone meal)
- Seaweed
- Fish scraps
- Hay

## **DO NOT COMPOST!**

- Oils
- Fats
- Meat
- Pet manures
- Diseased or insect infested plants
- Weeds that have gone to seed
- Poison ivy
- Caster bean
- Any poisonous plants

### **Fights mildew and black spot**

2 Uncoated Aspirin (325 MG)

1 Gallon warm water

**Prevents fungus spores and fights black spot**

1 Tablespoon baking soda

1 Gallon water

**Booster Shot for Tomatoes & Peppers BOOSTER SHOT**

2 Tablespoon Epsom Salt

1-Gallon warm water

**Awaken Asparagus Starter**

2/3 Cup sugar

1 Tablespoon Yeast

1 Quart of Water

**Molasses soil amendment**

1/2 cup Molasses

1 Gallon water

Mix well and you can use it in compost, as a soil drench, or mixed with water and sprayed on plants.

**Fungus Infections & Rust Roses and Hollyhocks\***

2 Uncoated Aspirin (325 MG)

1-Quart water

Use as Foliar spray

### **Mildew Cures**

1 ½ Teaspoons baking soda  
1 Tablespoon Canola Oil  
½ Teaspoon dish soap  
½ Cup white vinegar  
1 Quart water

\*Make sure you remove the diseased foliage and dispose of it in the trash—do not compost.

### **Spicy Cinnamon Spray Mildew Treatment**

¼ Teaspoon Cinnamon  
1 quart of warm water

Mix well and remember to spray both sides of the leaves. Spray early in the day or late at night.

### **Blossom End Rot Tomatoes**

1 Heaping full-size shovelful of compost  
1 Teaspoon Gypsum  
1 Teaspoon Epsom Salts

Mix together and put a heaping trowelful in the holes when planting tomatoes in the garden.

### **Tomatoes and Potatoes**

This is a popular and inexpensive preventative and early control method.

1-gallon water  
1 tablespoon baking soda

1 tablespoon canola oil (or other vegetable oil or horticultural oil)  
1-2 drops dishwashing liquid (e.g., Dawn)

### **Instructions for application**

1. Mix all ingredients thoroughly in a spray bottle or sprayer.
2. Apply to plants in the early morning or evening to prevent leaf burn and protect beneficial insects.
3. Spray all plant surfaces, including the undersides of leaves, until dripping.
4. Repeat applications every 7-10 days throughout the growing season.

### **Natural Bug Juice \***

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup of marigold flowers  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of geraniums  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup garlic (chopped very fine)

Mix with 10 gallons of warm water and sprinkle it over and around the vegetable garden where needed.

**\*If you are attracting bees do not use when you have blooms on the plants.**

**Basil Spray for Leaf Hoppers, Aphids, cabbage loopers, mites, and cucumber beetle.**

1 hand-full fresh basil leaves  
½ gallon jar filled with water.

Put in the sun for several days, then strain out the leaves and spray weekly to protect all members of the cabbage family, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, and brussels sprouts.

**Hot shot for Cucumber beetles, spittle bugs, leafhoppers and cabbage beetles**

2 Tablespoons Red Hot Pepper Liquid  
6 Drops dish washing soap  
1 Gallon Water

Let sit overnight, stir thoroughly. Spray weekly to protect all members of the cabbage family, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, and brussels sprouts.

**JAPANESE BEETLE REPELANT**

1 Hand full of Larkspur and delphinium leaves  
1 Gallon water

Put in blender and blend flowers up and add to water. Let stand overnight, strain out leaves and spray on plants. You can start treatment a couple of weeks prior to expecting the beetles and re-spray after every rain.

**Jerry Baker's Cure for Slugs**

1 ½ cup Ammonia  
1 Tablespoon Murphy's Oil Soap

1 ½ Cups water

Mix together and put in a sprayer. Overspray any areas where you see signs of slug activity.

### **White Fly Spray**

1 Cup sour milk

2 Tablespoons Flour

1 Quart Water

Mix in a bowl with a cover and let it sit out two days Strain before spraying. Reapply as needed.

### **Cabbage Worm Powder**

1 Cup Flour (not self-rising)

2 Tablespoons of Cayenne Pepper

Mix ingredients together and sprinkle a good coating over plants in the cabbage family, broccoli, cauliflower kale, and brussels sprouts.

### **Let Em' Have it Spray**

6 Cloves of garlic, finely chopped

1 Small onion

1 Tablespoon Cayenne Pepper

1 Tablespoon Liquid dish soap

Let this mixture sit overnight, strain. And place in a spray bottle and then

Let Em' Have It!

### **TOMATOS AND POTATO HOMEMADE FUNGICIDE**

1-Gallon of water

1 Tablespoon baking soda

1 Tablespoon Canola Oil (or other vegetable oil or horticultural oil)

1-2 drops Dish soap

Mix all ingredients thoroughly in a spray bottle or sprayer. Apply to plants in the early morning or evening to prevent leaf burn and protect beneficial insects. Spray all plant surfaces, including the undersides of leaves, until dripping. Repeat applications every 7-10 days throughout the growing season.

### **Deer Buster Egnog**

2 Eggs

2 Cloves of Garlic, finely chopped

2 Tablespoons Tabasco Sauce

2 Tablespoons Cayenne Pepper

2 Cups Water

Put all ingredients in the blender and puree. Allow mixture to sit for two days, then pour around plants you need to protect.

## **BOOKS USED FOR RESEARCH**

*Trowel & Error* by Sharon Lovejoy

*Backyard Problem Solver* by Jerry Baker

*Old-Time Gardening Wisdom* by Jerry Baker