

# Online Extras

## **Pest Control: Organics, Chemicals and Biological Controls**

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Brought to you by Matt LeBannister, the following home-made pest spray recipes are exclusive to you, the Maximum Yield reader.

### **Herbal Sprays**

Herbal sprays contain essential oils and can help control pest populations by reducing the number of pest eggs that are laid, as well as the feeding damage caused by many pests. Herbal sprays can also prevent new insects from attacking the treated plants.

A variety of herbs can be used for making herbal sprays. Experiment and come up with your own combination. Mash up two cups of herbs and let the herbs steep in one quart of water overnight. The next day, strain out all the leaf matter and the herbal spray is ready to be used on plants. Always test any new products on only a few plants. This way one can see how the few plants react to the spray and ensure that it is safe to use on the rest of the plants.

### **Alcohol Sprays**

Alcohol sprays are effective against a variety of grow room pests. When aphids, scales, thrips, whiteflies, etc. are sprayed with the diluted isopropyl alcohol their sensitive soft bodies are dried. Plants sprayed for three days with alcohol sprays will most certainly die. Eggs will also be irreversibly damaged and won't hatch.

To make your own alcohol pest control spray simply mix 25 ounces of isopropyl alcohol to one quart of water. Test on two or three plants before exposing the entire crop. Remember that any beneficial predator insects will be damaged along with all the bad insects.

### **All Purpose Homemade Sprays**

Homemade pest control sprays are effective against spider mites, aphids, mealy bugs, scales and many other garden pests.

To make your own homemade spray add two finely chopped cloves of garlic, one small diced onion and one teaspoon of cayenne pepper to one quart of water and let that mixture sit overnight. The next morning strain out the solids from the mixture and add one tablespoon of dish soap.

Shake your homemade spray before each application and spray plant twice a week. If refrigerated, the all purpose homemade spray should last one week.