**Homemade—Organic—Insecticidal Soap**

Here is a recipe for the soap to spray the plants with that is safe and organic.

Just make sure that if you use it, to get soap without any additives or perfumes.

The original Ivory is good.  You know 99.9% pure and it floats!!

**Soap Insecticide Recipes**

A one to two percent concentration of soap in water is an appropriate dilution for insecticide soap. This mixture will kill insects without risking burning the plant. This equates to approximately five tablespoons of soap per one gallon of water. Most recipes recommend using two teaspoons of dish detergent per quart of water, while those who use castile soap should add one or two tablespoons per quart of water. Blend the ingredients in a large pot or bucket, and then transfer them to a spray bottle as needed. The mixture will keep indefinitely. You may also wish to add some herbs known to repel, if not kill, many common garden pests. Try a handful of any of the following: horseradish, cayenne pepper, garlic, or onions. Make diffusion by pouring hot water over the herb of your choice, sealing it in a container overnight, and straining it. Add the spice-infused water to a basic soap insecticide for its extra repellant properties. Again, make sure that you test a small area of the plant before you douse it with the spray, as some plants are very sensitive to these spices.

**Application**

The reason that soap kills insects effectively is that they penetrate and disrupt the natural balance of their cells. The bug’s cell respiration will fail, killing it almost immediately once it has been exposed. It is therefore important to spray the insecticide directly on pests, saturating them thoroughly. Spray every bit of the plant with the soap insecticide, paying special attention to intersections and the undersides of leaves where pests hide and lay eggs. Once the soap residue has dried on the plant, it will lose its insect-killing properties. Rinse off the film and reapply about once a week until no signs of infestation are visible. Soap insecticides only kill small, soft-bodied insects like aphids, spider mites, white flies, mealy bugs, and immature scales. They will also destroy all eggs, including those of moths, flies, and beetles, as well as very small larvae. Larger pests (Japanese beetles, maggots, and caterpillars, for example) will be unaffected. For this reason, adding an all-purpose repellant to the mixture may be beneficial. Otherwise, you may have to resort to other methods to eradicate these pests.

As gardeners, we are as concerned about the safety of our pets, our environment, and ourselves as the health and beauty of our plants. Making a nontoxic and inexpensive insecticide is one way that we can protect all of these things. From the vegetable patch to the houseplant, all of the green growing things that people love can be spared the fate of being an aphid’s lunch. Better yet, those who grow them can take pleasure in how inexpensive and eco-friendly their homemade soap insecticides are.