

“Select Your Favorite Pest Removal Recipe” Contest Winner- Alice Massey

Alice’s entry: “In thinking of ideas for this contest, I am reminded of something I used to do regularly but have failed to do recently. In my last home I sprayed the garden weekly with a weak dish soap and water solution. The mix served to wash the foliage of many small, soft insects, dust and fungal agents. I dilute liquid dish soap and an equal amount of water and spray with a hose end sprayer set at 1 Tablespoon per gallon. Ivory liquid was always my choice of soap but a horticulturist told me recently a generic lemon scented product is effective also. In addition to being beneficial to the plants, I find it a good therapy for me. Walking around the garden and slowly attending to each plant is relaxing and during this hot weather it is a pleasant and cool (ing) chore.

While many parts of the country have received rain lately, my neighborhood has been windy and dry for six weeks. Although the irrigation system has been keeping plants alive they are under stress from these conditions. Plants under stress are easier targets for insects and diseases so this will be an optimum time for me to get back into a good habit and spray the garden with a dish soap solution.”