

Make Your Own Insecticidal Soap

by Maggie Gordon

Recently in travels around the lake to do talks on management of insect pests I shared this recipe which was promised in the next newsletter. Here is the homemade insecticidal soap as explained by Stephen Brown, a horticulture agent with the Lee County, University of Florida Extension Service.

2.5 tablespoons of liquid dishwashing soap (preferably Dawn or Lemon Joy) and not automatic dishwasher soap

Mix with 2.5 tablespoons of vegetable oil per gallon of warm water.

Make only what is needed for one day's treatment.

An insecticidal soap like this is generally not harmful to plants, animals or humans. Mr. Brown recommends thorough and repeated coverage of the affected plants and use at any time of year but not at temperatures above 90 degrees. At high temperatures the soap could cause burning of the leaves.