

## KINGMAN IS GROWING! Column

### “ORGANIC GARDENING”

by *Victoria Metz* and *Marjorie Grimes*, Kingman Area Master Gardeners

Organic gardening is becoming very popular due to the information about potential chemicals and hormones in our food supply possibly affecting our health.

Actually the term organic has been around for decades. Robert Rodale, son of J.I. Rodale, credits his father with first using the term “Organic” to describe the natural method of gardening. This was in a publication titled Organic Gardening and Farming printed in 1942. In the 1940’s, Sir Albert Howard, a British agronomist popularized organic gardening and farming in India where he taught farmers to recycle natural ingredients and waste products.

In commercial agricultural, organic has a legal definition. There are USDA regulations and most backyard gardeners adhere to the same basic principles. Organic gardeners don’t use synthetic or chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Instead we use seaweed, fish emulsion, compost and compost tea. We who are involved in organic gardening know the importance of the soil composition, beneficial bugs, and companion planting along with how to get rid of troublesome issues naturally. A lot of gardeners use organic practices and are not even aware of it. Attention to your soil is or should be every gardeners concern. Well decomposed organic matter added regularly is very important to the build up of your soil. Also planting a cover crop of legumes (beans) and peas are helpful too. Just cut the plants off at the soil level and leave the roots, they’re very good for your soil because they are a natural nitrogen source.



Mix all of this in a blender. Strain solids out, and you have a concentrate. Add a quarter of this concoction to one gallon water, and spray directly on bugs. To make it really strong, add two tablespoons of vegetable oil. Bugs hate it!

DE (diatomaceous Earth) Food grade not pool grade helps with many bugs like: Ants, grubs, roaches, and etc. Always wear a dust mask when using DE. It can irritate your lungs. DE can be sprinkled on top of the soil and scratched in or can be sprinkled in cracks and crevices.

**Recipe # 1**           Ants: (Kill the Queen)  
3 oz any sweet jam  
1 ½ tablespoons wet can cat food  
1 ½ tablespoons Boric acid (wear a dust mask for safety)

Mix all ingredients well and place along ant trails.

**Recipe # 2**           Ants: (trap method)  
6 tablespoons sugar  
6 tablespoons active dry yeast  
1/2 cup honey or molasses  
10 small plastic lids

Mix all ingredients until smooth. Place mixture in lids and place near the ant trails.

These recipes have helped me in the garden and hope they help you too!

There are many books, seminars, and TV garden shows that are loaded with great information that may help you become an organic gardener.

**Go for it, and Happy Organic Gardening!**

**The University of Arizona does not endorse or disclaim the practices mentioned. The University of Arizona does agree strongly that healthy and well adapted plants are an effective way to avoid pests.**

**REMEMBER to visit the FARMERS' MARKET, on Sundays from 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. at 101 E. Beale Street, Kingman.**

***NEWCOMERS TO THE AREA or not; Master Gardeners will be holding a "DESERT GARDENING FOR NEWCOMERS" workshop, Saturday, October 13, 2007 at Mohave Community College, Room 200F in the Student Center, 1971 Jagerson Avenue, Kingman from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. Plan on joining them for helpful information!***

For more information contact The University of Arizona Mohave County Cooperative Extension at 101 E. Beale Street, Suite A, Kingman or telephone 928-753-3788.

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