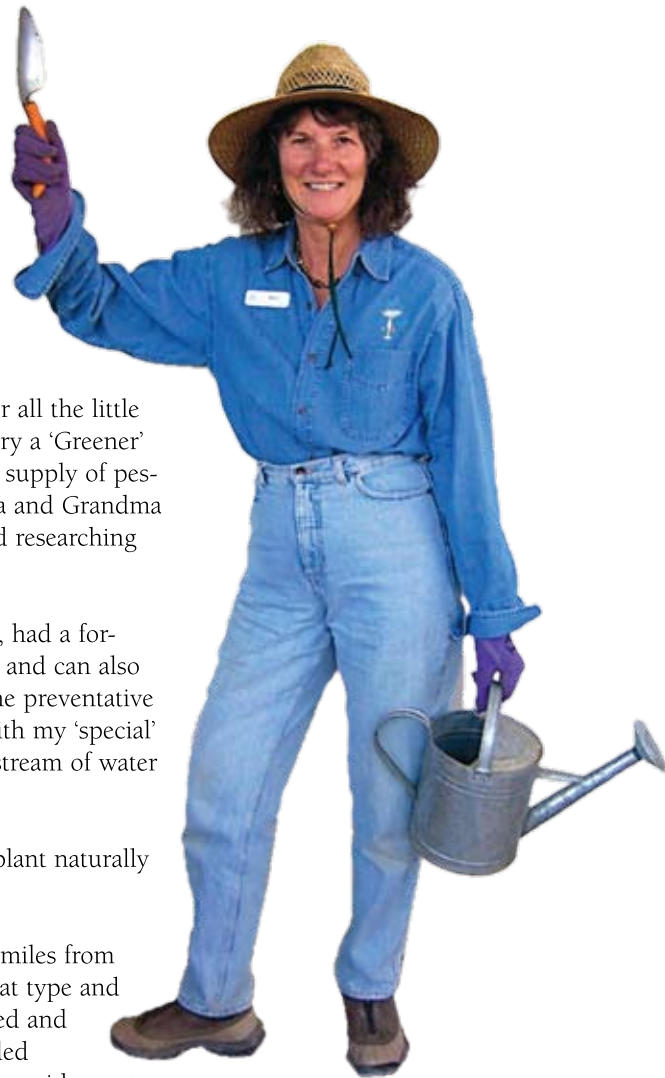


Pests in the Garden



By Sheri Sinni
Garden Accents

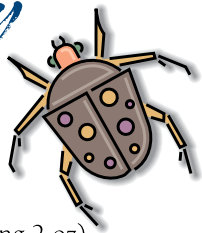
Last year as spring approached I decided that I was going to be ready for all the little invaders that wanted to take up residence in my garden. I wanted to try a 'Greener' approach instead of running to the local hardware store for my annual supply of pesticides and herbicides. Green, Back to Basics, or let's do it like Grandpa and Grandma did; whatever you want to call it, I went back to the books and started researching ways to make my own sprays for insects and diseases.

Dennis Glowniak, the former president of the California Organic Garden Club, had a formula that with a little tweaking works great for me. The recipe is listed below and can also be found on the Garden Accents web site under New Ideas. Dennis stresses the preventative method so starting in January I spray my roses, fruit trees and citrus garden with my 'special' spray. If by chance I do find something moving in I blast them with a strong stream of water from the garden hose and follow that up with the organic spray.

Planting the plants in the optimum light and soil requirements also helps the plant naturally ward off insects and disease.

Thinking about driving down a country road and seeing a beautiful rose bush miles from anywhere with limited water and fertilizer also made me want to minimize what type and how much fertilizer I use in my flower beds. Keeping the soil properly amended and fertilized will go a long way toward making your plants happy. Last year I added compost to all my beds and used fish emulsion twice during the growing season with great success. This year I will experiment with some of the new organic pesticides and fertilizers we are carrying at Garden Accents. Stop by and I'll let you know how things are going as the season progresses.

Plant Spray



- 3T Baking Soda
- 2T Baby Shampoo
- 2T Canola Oil
- 2T Vinegar

Put in Ortho Dial n' Spray (setting 2 oz)
Add water
Attach to hose and spray away

Always spray in the morning before it gets hot.

Looking for a special garden accent, check out Garden Accents. They are located at 11155 Lena Avenue in Gilroy. Open Monday thru Saturday from 8 am - 5 pm and on Sundays from 10 am - 4 pm. Take a virtual tour at garden-accents.net.

Time to fertilize and check your irrigation system

FOR ESTABLISHED LAWNS we recommend a fertilizer with an analysis of 21-7-14. This is recommended for all weather use (unless at application time the temperature is over 90 degrees Fahrenheit) on a schedule of every 60 days. We carry a product by the name of Turf Royal which we highly recommend to all of our customers. We have found it to be one of the best products on the market. You can find it at our Grass Farm location in Morgan Hill at 602 Palm Avenue or call ahead and we can have it ready for you at Garden Accents.

MOST LAWN PROBLEMS RESULT FROM improper watering (either too much or too little). After sod is established, water less often for longer periods of time, paying close attention to the amount of water applied. Early mornings are preferred for watering — not evenings. A good rule of thumb is to apply 1-inch of water per week (divided into 2-3 watering cycles) at 70 degrees Fahrenheit temperature, increasing this amount by 1/2-inch for every 10 degrees increased temperature, or 10 mph wind speed. To judge how much time this will take for your lawn, you can audit your sprinkler system by placing cups in the lawn area and measuring the amount of water captured in a specific length of time. Remember, 1-inch per week is a guideline for average soil conditions; sandy soil will require more water, and heavy clay soils usually require less. More detailed information on watering is available at our website: www.grassfarm.com or ET rates (Evapotranspiration) at www.cimis.water.ca.gov/cimis/welcome.jsp.