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### Home made white oil recipe

Monday, 20 October 2003

It's easy to make your own oil based spray at home and it's totally safe. All you need is a little vegetable oil and liquid soap.

Oil based sprays are very useful in controlling a wide range of insect pests in the garden. Pests like scale, aphids, smooth skinned caterpillars, mites and even young grasshoppers suffocate when their bodies are covered with oil.

You can even use oil sprays to deter the citrus leaf miner.

Here's how it's done:

1. In a blender, combine 2 cups of vegetable oil with ½ cup of dishwashing liquid. Blend it up until it's well mixed. This is your concentrate and can be stored in a jar. Be sure to label it and include the dilution rate on the label.
2. To prepare the concentrate for use, dilute 1 tablespoon in a litre of water, mix it well and spray the pest as well as both sides of the foliage thoroughly.
3. Always follow this dilution rate, because you can burn the foliage if it's too strong and there are a few other rules; don't apply it in hot weather and avoid using it on plants with hairy foliage as well as ferns, palms and cycads as this can also cause leaf burn.
4. Regular applications of this easy to make oil based spray will help protect your plants from many common pests found in the garden. Why don't you try it yourself?

And tune in and ask your questions on Gardening Talkback on ABC Riverina, Saturdays from 8.30am. Our phone number is 02 6923 4800

Let us know how you go with this recipe - leave a message in our [questbook](#).

Audio for this story is not available

Last Updated: 20/10/2003 2:29:02 PM AEST

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