

# Are You Kidding Me?

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Dispelling garden quick fixes, home remedies, and other nonsense

# Tonight's Topics

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- Overview
- Good Idea or Fake
- Pest Control
- Disease Control
- Managing Weeds
- Improving Your Soil

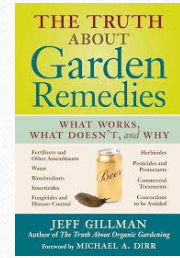
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Other Remedies

- Discussion & Questions

# Overview



- An interactive presentation of gardening remedies, myths, fantastic promises, and some good advice about improving your garden's bounty.
  - Organically-based gardening
  - For ornamentals as well as vegetables
- You vote on the solutions
  - True? False? Somewhere in between?
  - You can offer your own solutions
- Let's make this webinar a discussion with your good ideas based on **science and**

**experience**  
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- Not based on internet miracle cures
- Some of the assertions in this presentation adapted from the book "*The Truth*

# Can You Spot a Fake?

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- Let's watch [this](#) and tell me what you notice
  - Synthetic voice
  - Wild claims
  - Too good to be true photos of veggies
  - No details
  - Bad gardening practices
  - No references to scientific studies or reasons why the claims are valid

# Pest Controls



- Control Slugs with a pan of beer
  - Works pretty well
- Whiskey spray as insecticide
  - Crazy waste of good spirits
- Keep Snakes away with mothballs or powdered lime
  - Snakes are not pests at all but make some folks uncomfortable
  - These do not work & may be dangerous
- Rotenone is organic so it's safe
  - Extracted from roots of tropical plants
  - In higher doses it is toxic to humans, animals, and **fish**
- Deer control
  - Sprays
  - Irish Spring soap
  - Fencing is the best way to keep deer from eating your lettuce, Hostas, and other greens
  - Your ideas?

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# Pest Controls



- Dish soap spray
  - Removes waxy cuticle on insects
  - May also remove the same from leaves
  - Stick with insecticidal soap sprays
- Garlic spray to repel insects
  - Repel insects from the odor?
  - Yep, it does
- Diatomaceous earth
  - Safe and effective

## Predator Insects

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- Excellent choice, if native
- Plant pollinators and attract them

# Disease Control



- Baking soda w/oil spray controlling Powdery Mildew (PM) on roses
  - Bingo, it works
  - But be careful
- Black spot control with corn meal
  - Survey says: Nah....
- Hydrogen peroxide spray
  - Only effective for very short time (hrs)
- Fight/prevent fungal infections with cinnamon

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- Using a milk spray for PM control
  - Mixed reviews

# Weeds



- Watering your weeds with a table salt solution
  - Not a good idea
- Watering your weeds with a vinegar solution
  - Can be effective, only isolated use
- Throw boiling water on the weeds
  - Are you kidding me?
- Roundup!
  - Yep it works but is it dangerous?
- So what does work & is safe?
  - Mulch, mulch, mulch

## Landscape Fabric

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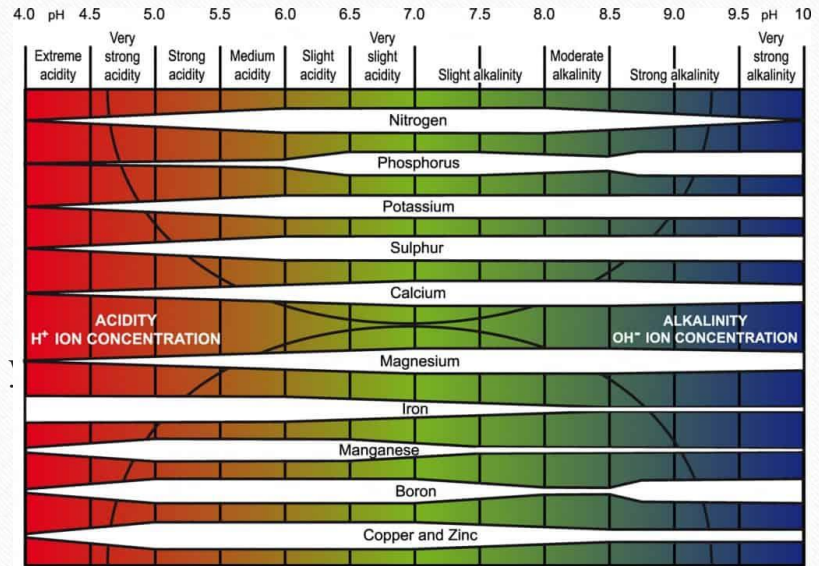
- Work your soil with a hoe
- Pull weeds out by the roots

# Improving Your Soil



- Soil Tests!
- pH adjustments - Critical to success
  - Use vinegar to acidify your soil
    - ❖ For a short period, it will lower the pH
    - ❖ Washes away with next watering/rain
    - ❖ Dangerous to plants!
  - Coffee grounds to acidify and improve
    - ❖ Mixed bag
    - ❖ Works on slugs!

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# Improving Your Soil



- All you need is compost
  - Good for organic material and some nutrients
  - Soil test for OM
  - Does not replace other nutrient sources
    - ❖ ~1.5, 1.5, 1
    - ❖ Not quick release
- Add eggshells to soil to prevent Blossom End Rot
  - ~~Caused by lack of available Calcium~~
  - *Are You Kidding Me?*
  - Takes too long to break down eggshells to work on this year's crop
  - Try Tums??

# Your Remedies & Discussion

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- What other remedies have you heard about or employed?
  - Do they work?
  - Are they real?
  - Side effects?

# Resources

- [U Maryland HGIC](#)
  - Great for so much locale specific information
  - Always look for websites with .EDU or .GOV extensions
- [Planting for predators](#)
  - How to attract them
- [Diatomaceous earth](#)
  - All about
- [Pest Control](#) and [Pest Control](#) and [Pest Control](#)
- [Plant Disease Control](#)

▪ A little bit of science  
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- [Improving your soil](#)
- [Soil pH](#) and [Soil pH](#) and [Soil pH](#)