

Edible Gardening Series with Sarah Bostick and Carol Wyatt-Evens UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County

Resources from Session 7: *Conventional & Biorational Pesticides*

University of Florida publications and non-UF organizations related to Pesticides (available on-line)

- *Natural Products for Managing Landscape and Garden Pests in Florida*
 - <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in197>
- *Managing Plant Pests with Soap*
 - <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in1248>
- *The EPA Conventional Reduced Risk Pesticide Program*
 - <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pi224>
- *Organic Materials Review Institute*
 - <https://www.omri.org/>
- *National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)*
 - <http://npic.orst.edu/>
- *Introduction to the Growers IPM Guide for Florida Tomato and Pepper Production*
 - <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in732>

Other plant and insect diagnostics and identification resources (always good to have on hand!):

- Insect Identification website: www.insectidentification.org/
- BugGuide website: www.bugguide.net
- *Vegetable Gardening in Florida* by James Stephens (book) – this excellent book has a section on common pests and diseases.
- Your local UF Extension office: <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/find-your-local-office/>

Answers to a few of the questions asked during Q&A

Question: How do I keep rabbits out of my garden? Will Fox Pee repel rabbits in the garden?

Answer: (*Information from previous session*) Rabbits can jump over a fence or tunnel under a fence, so constructing a rabbit-proof fence is essential. Your fence should be at least two-feet tall to prevent rabbits from jumping over the fence. To keep rabbits from tunneling under the fence, bury an L-shaped section of fence about one-foot deep along the perimeter of your garden.

- **This article does a good job of showing how this is done:** <https://garden.lovetoknow.com/garden-tools-supplies/rabbit-proof-garden-fencing>

information on Fox Pee/scents to repel rabbits: Rabbits, which quickly can become a predator's next meal if they are not on guard, are very sensitive to smells and tastes – especially those smells they associate with predators. There are many deterrents with an ammonia base that mimic predator urine. Since rabbits are herbivores, they tend to be wary of the smell of bone and blood as well, so bonemeal and bloodmeal (also used as natural soil amendments- double bonus!) can be applied in the areas you want to make unattractive the bunnies.

Here is a UF/IFAS EDIS resource on the subject of rabbits and repellents:

- How to Use Deterrents to Stop Damage Caused by Nuisance Wildlife in Your Yard:
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw371>

The university of Illinois put out a list of plants LEAST grazed on by rabbits. Although this may not be completely effective, planting some of these as perimeter plantings can enhance your garden.

- **Here is the list of herbs and flowers least favored by rabbits:** lobelia, snapdragons, petunias, astilbe, columbine, iris, peony, purple coneflower, basil, chives, oregano, rosemary and sage, buddleia, lantana, lavender, and viburnum.

Question: Essential oils for use in the garden

Answer: The thing about essential oils is that no one is the same and no combination of oils is the same. Essential oils are the volatile and aromatic substances created by plants. They are usually combinations of different plant oils, plant oils combined with plant extracts such as pyrethrins, and plant oils combined with fish oil – and can be used in the garden against pest insects. The most common oils used in these products are sesame, garlic, canola, and soybean. Essential oils are exempt from EPA registration which means they have received approval from EPA for SAFETY but have no guarantee of efficacy. It is difficult to say which oil works against which insect pest, but as a general guideline they work against small soft-bodied insects. There is a great publication through EDIS that gives further information on biorationals and essential oils. One thing to note – when reading about essential oils, keep in mind location, the insect, environment, and time of year in determining if essential oils are the right products to use.

UF/IFAS EDIS publication on natural products:

- Natural Products for Managing Landscape and Garden Pests in Florida - <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in197>

Upcoming classes listed on Eventbrite on Biorational pesticides (a deeper dive!):

- Biorational Pesticides: Eco-Friendly Pest Control (webinar)
 - Mon, December 7, 2020
 - 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM EST

Feel free to reach out with questions any time!

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