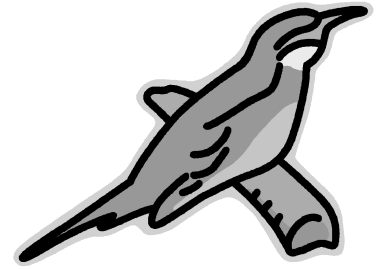




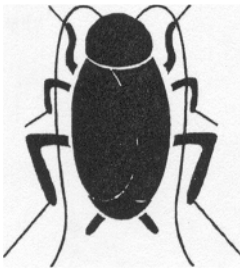
Suzanne Koptur's

Planet-Friendly Pest Control Recipes



If we want to have interesting organisms in our gardens (beautiful butterflies, nifty bees, colorful caterpillars, and birds and lizards that eat all of these!) we can't blast our local environment with pesticides to control problem arthropods in and around our houses.

To control roaches and ants, it is best to use targeted methods, specifically, baits. These attract the problem organisms, give them something to eat (with toxic stuff in it), and ideally they take it home to their nests to kill the rest. You can buy ant and roach baits at the store (the more expensive choice is usually the newer, more effective formulations) or you can use good old boric acid in these different recipes to provide effective control of most problems:



Roach Balls

Mix: 16 oz. powdered boric acid

1 c. flour

1/4 c. sugar

1/4 c. shortening

small chopped onion (optional)

Add small amounts of water to form a soft dough. Make little balls and put in places where you find roaches. Keep out of reach of pets and small children (this stuff leads to tummy-aches) .

Ant Baits

Option No.1 [this one is simpler, but requires cotton balls and about 20 small containers (like film canisters)] : In 2 c. hot water / dissolve 1 tsp. boric acid and 3 T sugar. Stir until everything is dissolved. Soak cotton balls and stick in small containers and place in areas where problem ants occur. By making the boric acid not too strong, the ants live long enough to carry the stuff back to their nest, and it is most effective in controlling them.

Option No.2: Mix 1 tsp. Boric acid and 2.5 fluid ounces of corn syrup or honey in a small saucepan. Warm and stir until the boric acid is dissolved. Cool and add 2.5 fluid ounces of water. Drip small amounts on pieces of aluminum foil or small lids and place where ants may travel.

Miami Herald's ant and roach mixture: In one quart of water, put one crushed clove garlic, one onion, one tablespoon of cayenne pepper. Steep for one hour, and one tablespoon of liquid soap, and spray it around the house.