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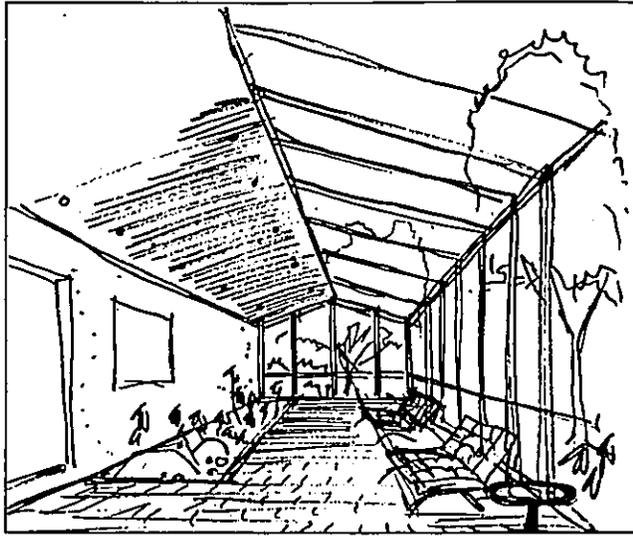


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Mix your own bug spray

AP — Backyard gardeners bothered by insects may ease the problem by mixing up some bug juice in a kitchen blender and spraying, according to a pest control consultant.

The suggestion comes from Bob Bechtold, spraying and pest control specialist at Mantis Manufacturing Co., Huntingdon Valley, Pa., producer of power garden tools.

Backyard blender sprays are organic sprays made from insect-repelling but non-poisonous plants or insects — and although tests are inconclusive, Bechtold explains — they have been found to be effective against many insects, including grape skeletonizers, cabbage loopers, stinkbugs, ants, slugs, aphids, wireworms and several caterpillar species.

BUG JUICE IS prepared by taking

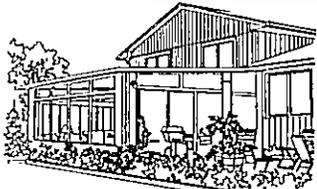
about one-half cup of whatever pests are causing problems and mixing the insects with two cups of water in a blender, then spraying the solution on infected crops, he says.

Plant juice, made essentially the same way as bug juice but with plant leaves, also works in varying degrees against a variety of garden pests, says Bechtold.

"A beautiful lawn or garden, a successful orchard or bountiful farm crop need not threaten the environment, wildlife or people," Bechtold says.

"Pesticides are important in our huge, bustling world. Without them we simply wouldn't have enough to eat. But they must be used intelligently and carefully.

"Organic pest control is a choice we can make. A responsible approach to any and all pesticides is a choice we must take."



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