

# Home & Garden

## Beer kills fruit flies and ants retreat from chalk

When spring finally arrives, you may find that your garden isn't the only place where there's all sorts of new life.

Here are five ideas about how to handle the pests without polluting the environment.

**1. Ants:** Locate the place of entry, squeeze a lemon onto it and leave the peel.

Ants will also retreat from lines of talcum powder, chalk, damp coffee grounds, bone meal, charcoal dust and cayenne pepper.

**2. Fruit Flies:** Pour a small amount of beer into a wide-mouth jar. Put a plastic bag across the mouth of the jar with a rubber band. Poke a small

hole in the bag. Flies will enter through the hole and not be able to find their way out again. Change the beer when necessary.

**3. Flies:** Sunny windows are flies' most common entrance into your home, so close windows before the sun hits them. Use regular sticky fly-paper to catch unwelcome flying

guests. You can make your own with honey and yellow paper.

**4. House Plant Pests:** Blend two or three hot peppers, half an onion and one clove of garlic in water, boil, steep for two days and strain. Used as a spray, this concoction is for indoor and outdoor plants and can be frozen for future use. Also try

spraying two tablespoons liquid soap, or five grams dry soap, in one quart/litre of water. Remember to spray with fresh water (the shower can be used for this) a few days afterwards.

**5. Spiders:** Under ideal conditions, do not kill spiders because they help to control pests.

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