

## **EDUCATOR NOTES:**

### [Growing healthy plants using natural pesticides](#)

#### **Learning and Engagement Approach**

This activity is designed to engage young learners aged from 7 – 13 years.

The activity is intended to:

- help children understand how pests affect plant growth
- investigate the types of pests that can impact a food garden
- produce a natural pesticide that can be used to protect plants.

#### **Safety Considerations**

- Check the weather before conducting any outdoors activity. If there is going to be extreme temperatures, storms or high wind, postpone the activity.
- Ensure that everyone is wearing closed shoes, hats, and sunscreen and has a water bottle handy.
- Keep any allergy plan information at hand and any associated allergy medication.
- Only adults should collect the warm water, in case it runs hot
- Demonstrate safe use of the spray bottles, spraying at plants not faces or people
- Be aware of wind direction when spraying.
- Ensure that spray bottles are correctly labelled and stored in a safe location after use
- Check the spray bottles regularly and replace contents if they discolour or change.

#### **Materials and References**

All materials for this activity can be sourced from your supermarket or hardware store.

#### **Site Suggestions**

Some new growth on plants will be affected if they are sprayed on hot (above 30 degree) days. Try to spray on still days and be aware of not spraying beneficial insects such as bees when you are treating your crop for pests.

#### **Educator Tips**

Keeping plants healthy requires regular monitoring because pests can increase their number very quickly.

If you have a pest problem, consider undertaking some further research using our beneficial garden activity sequence.

### Aligning this Activity

- Creating a beneficial garden: [assessment](#), [Investigation](#) and [planting](#)

### Extension Activities

#### Extension 1

Investigate how you can use companion planting to control insect pests.

#### Extension 2

Find out how you can plant a beneficial garden that uses other bugs to control pests.

### Community Engagement

Use [The National Landcare Directory](#) to find a community environmental 'care' group near you. Landcare groups have experience in growing healthy plants and managing pests and diseases we encourage you to connect with them.

Look to the [Junior Landcare Community Page](#) for organisations to contact to help support growing healthy plants.

Use this [Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network map](#) to find a City Farm or Community Garden near you to get some ideas for pest control in your area.

### Curriculum and Framework Links

#### SCIENCE

Year 2: [ACSHE035](#)

Year 3: [ACSHE050](#), [ACSIS054](#)

Year 4: [ACSSU073](#)

Year 5: [ACSSU043](#), [ACSHE083](#)

Year 6: [ACSSU094](#), [ACSHE100](#)

Year 7: [ACSSU112](#), [ACSHE120](#)

Year 9: [ACSSU176](#)

#### DESIGN & TECHNOLOGIES

Years 3 & 4: [ACTDEK012](#)

Years 5 & 6: [ACTDEK021](#), [ACTDEP026](#)

#### CROSS CURRICULUM PRIORITY

[Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures](#)  
[Sustainability](#)

#### MY TIME OUR PLACE: FRAMEWORK FOR SCHOOL AGE CARE

[Outcomes 2 and 4](#)