

## Soil Enhancers

- **Compost tea / liquid soil conditioner** - Has many of the benefits of compost in an easy-to-apply liquid.
- **Earthworm castings** - Provide high quality, organic nutrients in slow release form, and some beneficial microbes.
- **Kelp extract** - Provides micronutrients and plant growth hormones, relieves environmental stress on turf.
- **Microbial inoculants** - Replaces beneficial microbes in the soil that lawn chemicals have depleted.
- **Organic compost** - Adds organic matter and beneficial microorganisms to the soil, while feeding plants and restoring a healthy soil environment.
- **Organic fertilizer** - Slowly enriches and feeds the soil. Fast acting synthetic fertilizers harm soil life.
- **Organic lawn products** [Lawn Booster, Kelp Booster, Dethatcher, Soil Conditioner] - Organica brand has packaged a complete set of organic lawn care products into an easy-to-use, four step system.
- **Rock dust minerals** - Provide important mineral micronutrients to turf grass and other plants.

## Biological Controls

- **Beneficial nematodes** - Microscopic, unsegmented worms harmless to plants but that prey on pest insects.
- **Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt)** - Bacteria that attack the digestive systems of certain pest insects, but are harmless to mammals and beneficial insects. Different strains are available to combat caterpillars and mosquito larvae.
- **Earthworms** - A gardener's best ally and "nature's plow," earthworms aerate and soften soil to help break down thatch. Their castings provide nutrients that would otherwise be unavailable to plants.
- **Milky spore** - A bacteria which is virulent to Japanese beetle grubs and several other grubs, but is harmless to other organisms. Can take a season or two for a noticeable impact.
- **Beneficial insects** [ladybugs, praying mantis, lacewings] - prey on pests like aphids, scales, mealybugs, white flies, & mites.



202 W. College Ave  
PO Box 97  
Normal, IL 61761  
(309) 454- 3169  
ecologyactioncenter.org

## Organic Yard Products



Find more Yard Smart recommendations at  
**yardsmart.org**

## Yard Smart

## Tips for Organic

## Yard Products

### Physical & Mechanical Controls

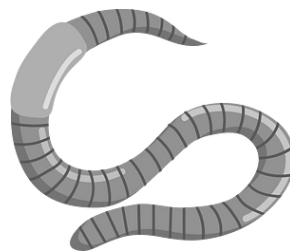
- **Coconut oil slug barrier** [such as Concern Slug Barrier] - Applied around garden beds to protect plants.
- **Copper slug barriers** - Flexible copper strips, which slugs will not cross, that can be placed around plant beds.
- **Netting** - Keeps bird pests off plants.
- **Sticky barriers** - Applied around tree trunks to prevent gypsy moth caterpillars and other crawling pests.
- **Traps** - A multitude of pests including gypsy moths, Japanese beetles, hornets and wasps can be lured and trapped. Traps help monitor and in some cases limit pest populations.

### Composting Aids & Activators

- **Microbial compost inoculant** [compost activator] - microbes which accelerate the composting process.

### Alternative Pest Control Treatments

- **Citrus insect killer** [Limonene] - An extract of citrus peels effective against a number of insect pests, with very low toxicity to mammals.
- **Corn gluten** - A corn protein applied to lawns in early spring to inhibit weed germination. It also provides nitrogen.
- **Diatomaceous earth** - Microscopic fossilized shells of algae with sharp edges that pierce insect bodies, dehydrating them. Apply to lawns, pet pathways & dog runs to control fleas and ticks; use around flower beds to discourage slugs & snails.
- **Dried blood** - Provides nitrogen for plants and also repels deer.
- **Garlic oil insect repellent** [such as Garlic Barrier] - Repels a wide variety of pests from your lawn and garden, including mosquitos, fleas, and ticks.
- **Herbicidal soaps** [potassium salts] - Kills weeds and fungus by dehydration.



### Alternative Pest Control Treatments Continued

- **Horticultural oil/dormant oil** [vegetable-based such as canola oil] - Suffocates pests instead of poisoning them.
- **Hot pepper repellent** - Repels insects from vegetables, shrubs and flowers.
- **Insecticidal soap** [potassium salts] - Solutions of fatty acids and potassium salts that disrupt cell membranes of sucking insects and soft-bodied mites.
- **Lemon & vinegar herbicide** [such as Nature's Glory] - An effective weed killer using lemon and vinegar as the active ingredients is now on the market.
- **Neem oil** - An extract of the tropical neem tree, which kills many pest insects, and has very low toxicity to mammals.
- **Predator urines** - Repels deer, rabbits, and other mammal pests.
- **Sulfur fungicide** - An elemental substance that disrupts the metabolic processes of fungi; sulfur can also control mites.