Horticultural Soaps

Today on Gardening in a Minute: horticultural soaps.

Horticultural soaps may sound like cleaning products for your plants, but they’re actually environmentally friendly pesticides.

Horticultural soaps can be used to treat small, soft-bodied pests like aphids, mealybugs, whiteflies, and spider mites. They can be used on indoor and outdoor plants, including vegetables.

You can find homemade recipes on the Internet, but it’s often safer to use commercially available sprays as the results are more predictable.

Be sure to follow product labels, since timing matters in many situations. For example, spraying on a hot, summer day may cause damage to the plant.

Horticultural soaps work only when they come in direct contact with pests, so it’s important to have thorough coverage. You may need to reapply weekly until you get the pests in check.

For more information about horticultural soaps and many other gardening topics, contact your county extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.