**Recipes for the garden by Peg Wastell, MGV**

We use and make recommendations applying university research evidence –based education learned during our own readings and the Master Gardener Volunteer education. There are old folk remedies that seem to be effective and have some scientific basis. Many of us have our own concoctions we use in our gardens. Here are a couple of recipes given to me by successful long time gardeners.

**Deer Repellant Recipe**

Diane Barrette gave me this recipe. She uses it at her acreage and still has uneaten hosta and other “Godiva chocolate to deer” plants. I saw deer at the back of her property at 10 a.m. on morning of Artful Garden Tour. She sprays after every rain or every couple of weeks. This recipe contains egg solids and capsaicin, ingredients in effective commercial products. Making your own greatly reduces cost.

One bottle of hot sauce – at least 17 ounce bottle

She uses Louisiana hot sauce from Aldi but anything will do.

2 eggs slightly whisked with a fork

Water to make 1/2 gallon of liquid including hot sauce

Remove egg white strand (chalaza) so it doesn’t clog sprayer nozzle. Place in pump sprayer if you have large areas and spray. Clean nozzle occasionally if it becomes clogged. Spray does not contain any preservatives.

**Apple Tree Brine Trap**

Sue from DRC gave me this recipe as an organic way to control bugs in an orchard. Her family has a farm with an orchard originally planted by her father many years ago. Her father’s brine recipe is what they use for control. She says they always have good fruit. I have not tried this recipe myself. But it reminds me of a concoction to catch fruit flies in the house. This solution is similar to recipes for trapping coddling moths and apple tree maggot so would be interesting to try.

2lbs. brown sugar

2 cups very hot water

2 cups room temperature water

1 full cup of vinegar (any kind)

One banana peel

Dissolve brown sugar in hot water. Let cool. Add vinegar. Add banana peel. Pour into a plastic gallon jug (like a milk jug or vinegar bottle). Add 2 cups of room temperature water to mixture. Hang brine in tree before blooms come out. Change brine as needed. <http://nysipm.cornell.edu/organic_guide/apples.pdf>