

## Ant Control in the Home Vegetable Garden

Ants typically do not pose a risk to the vegetable garden, and can even serve as beneficial insects by preying on aphids (a known garden pest). While there is debate around whether or not ants pose a risk to your vegetable crop, too many ants in your garden can not only be a nuisance when tending your garden but can indirectly damage plants through disrupting the root system.

If you find yourself with an ant infestation in your garden, try these tips and tricks to reduce their numbers.

### Managing Ants

Mix equal parts Borax with Jelly, place in yogurt cups and place in garden bed

- The borax is poisonous to ants – they will take it back to their queen and it will kill the colony. Any ants that eat this will die
- This method may take a week or two to show results
- This method, according to some online Master Gardener forums appears to work best!

### Boiling Water

- If you can find ant hills, pour boiling water down into the ant hill – it will destroy the colony

### Coffee Grounds

- Covering ant hills and areas of ant activity with coffee grounds will drive ants away but not kill them

### Vinegar, Water and Dish Soap

- Make a mixture of equal parts water and vinegar and add 1.5 tablespoons of dish soap
- Spray all over garden bed
- The vinegar drives the ants away and the dish soap melts their exoskeleton (or so I have been told!)

### Food Grade Diatomaceous Earth

- Surround the roots of your plants with food grade diatomaceous earth and any area with high ant activity
- Diatomaceous earth is made of the fossilized remains of phytoplankton. There are a couple explanations why it works (it is sharp and cuts up the ants, it sticks to them and dries them out)
- Some folks swear by this method!