

Hello gardeners - We encourage you to take action to rid your plot of rodents. This information comes from fellow gardener Mary Campbell, June 2022.

Ground Squirrel/Gopher Spray:

In the shed is a large glass jar containing small animal repellent concentrate in addition to a spray bottle with the diluted solution for anyone to use. The recipe follows on page 2.

This animal repellent recipe originally appeared on the Houzz website by an unknown contributor.

The solution created by following the recipe is a concentrate. Combine 1/4 cup of concentrate with approximately 32 ounces of water in a sprayer bottle. (Be sure to gently shake the concentrate to mix what will settle at the bottom of the jar with the top part before adding 1/4 cup of the concentrate to water in the sprayer.)

To use, just gently shake the sprayer bottle to mix the contents and spritz liberally around the base of the garden area on the edging. No need to spray the soil or plants.

Always store the concentrate in a glass jar as the essential oils will permeate plastic during long term storage rendering the actual solution less effective. The sprayer doesn't need to be glass as it is used more quickly.

When making the concentrate, please be aware that some essential oils are just not safe to use. Please limit your selection to those included on the recipe. Not every essential oil listed needs to be used...use what you have access to.

Keep this concentrate and also the spray solution out of reach of children for obvious reasons.

Supposedly, the solution creates enough of a scent that small animals are not able to smell predators in addition to creating a few digestive issues if consumed.

Keep in mind I am a home gardener and not a chemist. Please use this solution responsibly and at your own risk.

Mary Campbell
EVCG Gardener

Ground Squirrel / Gopher Spray Concentrate

(this variation is based on a recipe originally found on a Houzz website blog)

16 oz liquid peppermint soap (such as Dr Bronner's)

16 oz castor oil

30 drops each clove and peppermint essential oil*

40 drops each tea tree and juniper berry essential oils*

2-3 Tablespoons cayenne pepper

2 Tablespoons garlic powder

Mix all together and store in glass container. (Otherwise the essential oils will be absorbed into plastic and won't serve their purpose.)

Shake container to remix solution before using 1/4 – 1/3 cup per 32 ounces water in a spray bottle. Also shake spray bottle solution before spraying around perimeter of garden areas.

Do not advise spraying directly on plants.

*Really any safe-to-human odiferous essential oils will work such as lavender. Do NOT use Wintergreen or other essential oils not safe for humans – you may wish to research this if in doubt.