

The amount of water available for our use depends on its quality. Each time we use water we change the quality by adding substances such as municipal sewage, toxic chemicals, solvents, detergents, pesticides, fertilizers, sediment, oil-based compounds, debris, and waste heat. Polluted water can spread disease, kill aquatic life, destroy plants and animals, and make rivers and lakes unfit for recreation. Because our water supply is limited, cleaning our used water and safeguarding our clean water is an important part of using our resources wisely.

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our water supplies safe. Everyday activities affect water quality. By being cautious about the use of hazardous substances - pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, paints, fuels - and the disposal of all types of waste, every citizen can help keep our water resources safe and clean. Contaminants are commonly derived from municipal, agricultural, and industrial wastewater. This includes residues from personal care and cleaning products. By removing these toxins, we can get one step closer to cleaner.

434.97.RIVER
RCS@rivannariver.org
www.rivannariver.org

The Rivanna River is often referred to as "Mr. Jefferson's River." Thomas Jefferson grew up on the shores of the Rivanna and later built his Monticello home along its banks. Sharing Mr. Jefferson's appreciation for this historic river, a group of Fluvanna County residents established The Rivanna Conservation Society (RCS) in 1990.

RCS is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization created in 1990. As the "Voice of the Rivanna," RCS's mission is to safeguard the ecological, recreational, historical, cultural and scenic resources of the Rivanna River and its tributaries. RCS sponsors events and hosts activities throughout the watershed, including river paddles, riverbank and instream clean-ups, public education forums, teacher and student education, training and water quality monitoring events, riparian buffer plantings and watershed restoration projects.



Lawn Care



Weed Killer

Ingredients

- 1 gal Vinegar
- 2 c Epsom salt
- ¼ c Dawn Dishwashing Soap (original blue is best)



Directions

- Mix and spray in the morning after the dew has evaporated.
- Weeds should be dead by the end of the day.

Insect Spray

Ingredients

- 1 c of hot sauce (the hotter the better)
- ½ c vegetable oil
- 10 drops peppermint essential oil
- 1 c water

Directions

- Mix all of the above ingredients in an empty spray bottle and shake it vigorously until combined. You will have to re-shake occasionally before spraying.
- Spray all over the leaves (tops and bottoms) on your plants, and around the base. Do this atleast twice a week.

Simple Plant Food

Ingredients

- 1 tsp baking powder.
- 1 tsp Epsom salts.
- 1 tsp ammonia.
- 1 gal of water

Directions

- Simply mix your ingredients in a gallon of room temperature water.
- Store the solution in an airtight, labeled container. You can even keep it in a gallon jug if you wish.
- Feed plants every 4 weeks with the mixture.
- Be sure you keep your container labeled well.



Weed Be Gone

Ingredients

- 1 gal of distilled vinegar
- 1 c of salt
- 1 tbsp of liquid dish soap

Directions

- Mix the ingredients well.
- Pour into a labeled spray bottle.
- Spray directly on weeds in the garden.
- Repeat as needed every few days until weeds are gone.

Easy Pesticide for Organic Gardening

Ingredients

- 1 fresh minced garlic clove
- 1 c of warm water
- 4 drops of dish soap

Directions

- Mix the three ingredients together well.
- Pour into a labeled spray bottle. Shake.
- Spray generously on plants.
- Bugs will hate this mixture and steer clear. Reapply as needed.