

How to Use Hydrogen Peroxide in the Garden

By Phyllis Benson, e-How Contributor

Hydrogen peroxide is a first aid remedy. For years it has been dabbed on scraped knees and skinned elbows. Amazed children watch as the clear liquid turns into a bubbly froth. The hydrogen peroxide has antiseptic and anti-bacterial abilities that help prevent infection.

With these simple steps, you can use hydrogen peroxide for garden first aid.

Things You'll Need

- . 3 percent hydrogen peroxide
- . Spray top to fit peroxide bottle
- . Plant misting bottle
- . Measuring cup

1. Think of hydrogen peroxide as a boost of oxygen for your plants. It is a byproduct of oxygen metabolism that decomposes to water and oxygen. Plants thrive right after a good thunderstorm and rain. They get a blast of oxygen from the storm. Hydrogen peroxide in small quantities can do the same for plants.
2. Buy a bottle of ordinary 3 percent hydrogen peroxide. It is available in higher strength, but can burn the skin if it is too strong. If possible, get a spray top to fit the peroxide bottle. Otherwise, buy a regular plant-misting bottle.
3. Make a basic solution for your plant needs. Use 1 ounce of hydrogen peroxide in 1 quart of water. Use this solution periodically to water and mist plants. Many home gardeners say it perks up plant growth and helps prevent root rot. Mix only enough solution to use immediately.
4. Jump-start your garden by sprouting seeds with hydrogen peroxide. Keep the seeds moist by using hydrogen peroxide with the water. It prevents the mold and fungus that attacks sprouting seeds. Continue watering with the basic solution after you plant the seeds.
5. **Spray hydrogen peroxide on a sickly or diseased plant. Spray it full strength on plants leaves with black spot or blight. Apply once or twice a week.**
6. Use your basic solution to water heat-weary or drought-stricken plants. For a larger quantity, use ½ cup hydrogen peroxide in 1 gallon of water. Use for a few weeks until the plants are healthy. This is also handy if you return from vacation and find the houseplants are droopy because they did not have enough water.
7. Store hydrogen peroxide in a cool, dry, well ventilated place. It is frequently sold in a brown bottle that filters out light. Leave it in this bottle until you are ready to use it. Hydrogen peroxide breaks down quickly when exposed to light.
8. Keep a bottle of hydrogen peroxide handy. You and the garden can share the healing benefits. Have a great gardening season.

This information was received from Nancy Fortner, American Fuchsia Society (AFS) member of our Sebastopol Branch, to all branch members. Thank you Nancy.

