

## **JUNE PRODUCT REVIEW**

Summer is finally here and I am trying to keep the flies at a minimum. I have used the fly predators (nematodes) that I have reviewed in the past, but they flies still pester the horses when they are out on the pasture or while riding. So I have collected recipes for homemade repellent over the years and tried them all. Some are better than others but you can try these and have an alternative to chemical sprays. I found some of these on the internet and some have been passed down from friends that wanted an alternative to chemical sprays and came up with these. I have added comments beside each one. Try them and Happy fly hunting!

(FYI- the citronella oil used should always be the true essential oil, not the type used in backyard candles or torches. You can get it in the 16 oz size at [www.wildroots.com](http://www.wildroots.com)

2 cups white vinegar  
1 cup Avon Skin So Soft (Bath oil) **(This works well, using either citronella OR eucalyptus oil)**  
1 cup water  
1 tablespoon eucalyptus oil

500m. (2 cups) light mineral oil  
125ml (1/2 cup) lemon juice  
10ml (2 tsp.) citronella oil **(not my favorite of all of these, too greasy)**  
eucalyptus oil , 3 tbl  
10ml lemon dish detergent  
(optional) 125ml glycerin  
Mix in a spray bottle and spray away

1 oz. Citronella Oil  
2 oz. Skin-So-Soft or Coat-So-Soft **(one of the best)**  
1 Cup Cider Vinegar  
1 cup Water

If your horse is allergic to fly bites, try 1/4 cup of apple cider vinegar on their grain once a day. This raises the blood acid level just enough to bother the flies, but it is completely healthy for the horse. It takes about one week to start seeing the effects. Several friends have tried this as well and they said it seemed to repel flies and mosquitoes **(I have done this for years and absolutely works, I always have non-vinegar water as an option to insure they drink)**

You can mix seven parts water with one part citronella as a fly spray. It's not oily either. Mix it four parts water to one part citronella during the worst of the fly season. **(not as effective but simple and better than nothing!)**

Bounce fabric softener sheets tied one to your Horse's headstall works really great. On the trail , works better than ANY fly spray I've ever tried mainly because sweat does not affect it. The flies are nearly as numerous. **( Inexpensive and great fly repellent)**

**2 oz of Witch hazel**

**1 oz citronella oil**

**(REALLY WORKS!)**

In case you are already getting ready for snow and ice (!! ) there is something I tried last year that I had used on my dogs feet. It is called Musher's Secret and it sticks to the pads of the dogs feet to protect them from heat and ice so I wondered how it would do to keep balls from forming on my horses' shoes, since it is the same consistency as vaseline that has been recommended to me. It works pretty well, but has to be reapplied every day. I did not have any balls form from the ice last year. So it is definitely worth it.