

Date: 6/21/2003 3:28:06 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: backwaterjon

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<wrote:

Hi, sorry not to know this but what is (diatomaceous earth) and where to you find it.

Thanks Julie

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Diatomaceous Earth is the hard shells of sea creatures. These shells have sharp edges and tend to tear an insect up from the inside out. Diatomaceous Earth is not harmful to humans or other large animals because they cannot do enough damage in our mostly liquid bodies to harm us.

Mellingers sell Diatomaceous Earth

<http://www.mellingers.com/>

When Diatomaceous Earth is sprinkled on the ground, on an ant mount, or mixed with grains, legumes, etc., it slices and dices the insects that walk through it. Many farmers deliberately mix Diatomaceous Earth with animal feed to kill internal parasites in farm animals. The Diatomaceous Earth in the animal feces even kills the fly maggots that invariably appear in the patties.

Diatomaceous Earth comes in at least two grades: Horticultural Grade and Food Grade. It's important to use only Food Grade Diatomaceous Earth if you're using it to store grains.

If you want to use it on plants, don't get any on the flowers. It'll slice up the few honeybees we have left. And I don't recommend incorporating mass quantities into the soil. Earthworms are good things: Diatomaceous Earth is also effective against fleas, but

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again, take care not to let your pet breathe it.

OSHA Says: Diatomaceous Earth: A soft siliceous solid composed of skeletons of small prehistoric aquatic plants. Contains primarily silica. Silica: Group 3, not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans (Amorphous Silica)