



Info 14: Organic Options for Spraying Fruit Trees Against Disease

1 Bio Marinus - Biological Liquid Fish Fertiliser

It can be used as a foliar spray at 10 to 14 day intervals, which will give fungal protection against mildew and black spot. It also benefits plants with a balanced fertiliser during all growth stages. It can also be mixed with other chemical sprays to control a range of diseases. While we have great results in the nursery we can't give an absolute guarantee that it will work.

Please note: It does have a slight odour so don't spray too close to your home.

2 Bicarbonate of Soda – Organic fungicide

Use two litres of water, and a drop of vegetable oil, which helps to fix the spray to the leaf when it's dried. A drop of detergent helps to spread the mix over the leaf. Then add the active ingredient – bicarbonate of soda. Don't get carried away with the soda because if you make it too strong, it'll cause all sorts of problems. Put in two teaspoons per litre. The bicarbonate of soda makes the leaf surface alkaline and this inhibits the generation of fungal spores. You can also use it on tomatoes. The Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney has found this to be effective on powdery mildew, rust and black spot on roses.

3 Milk fungicide

Mix one level teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda into one litre of water. Add one litre of full cream milk and shake thoroughly. Great for powdery mildew and black spot.

4 Washing Soda

To help in the prevention of Leaf Curl in Peach and Nectarine. Stocked by select supermarkets. Break up the granules with a rolling pin and then apply at two handfuls per square metre as a ground application under the tree and broadcast out to the edge of the drip line. Apply in July so that the washing soda has a chance to dissolve and be taken up by the tree before spring.

General note: Remember its always better to water in the morning, and make sure plants are well spaced.