



© Annette McFarlane

Off The Shelf Pest and Disease Control in School Gardens

Updated 27 July 2023

Aim to grow strong pest and disease resistant plants with good nutrition, use of liquid seaweed, use of compost and regular liquid feeding of plants. Establish a diverse range of plant species and create natural habitats that support a range of beneficial organisms that help bring about natural pest control. When pests or diseases occur, organic standards permit the use of:

- biological controls using naturally occurring cultured organisms such as Dipel (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) for control of caterpillars on **cabbages**
- copper sulphate for **fungal and bacterial diseases**
- **fruit fly** baits in enclosed traps as well as paper fruit fly control bags and exclusion netting
- iron-based products such as those used in organic **snail bait**
- light mineral oil such PestOil for **scale, aphids** etc and to deter **citrus leaf miner** as well as plant oils such as vegetable oil (*please note neem oil is not registered for edible crops*)
- lime products including dolomite, garden lime and agricultural lime **dusted on plants** to control pests like **beetles**, improve plant health and reduce disease outbreaks by lifting soil pH and providing calcium
- lime sulphur-based products including Lime Sulphur Spray for **disease control**
- powdered or wettable sulphur for control of **mites and diseases**
- natural pyrethrum for more serious pest outbreaks including **beetles**
- potassium-based soap sprays such as Natrasoap for **aphids, scale** and other **soft-bodied insects**
- vinegar concentrate for weed control and to **acidify water** in inland regions
- seaweed, seaweed meal and seaweed extracts for improve **plant health** and **disease control**
- sodium bicarbonate for control of **fungal outbreaks**
- exclusion fabrics including cloth and netting to exclude **possums** and **grasshoppers** plus paper and cloth bags to protect fruit from **fruit fly**
- horticultural insect barrier glue and sticky traps to prevent **ants** carrying **scale, mealy bugs** and other pests up into trees especially citrus.