

Homemade Disease Sprays

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by Catriona Tudor Erler

A. Baking Soda and Horticulture Oil

Scientists at Cornell University have developed the following recipe as a non toxic control for powdery mildew. It is also somewhat effective in controlling black spot on roses when applied on a weekly basis.

1. 1 tablespoon baking soda
2. 2 1/2 tablespoons of Sun spray Ultra fine Horticulture Spray Oil
3. 1 Gallon of water

Combine the baking soda and Hort Oil in the water. Spray mixture on roses once a week beginning in April

B. Sulfur Spray

Sulfur is an excellent fungicide, suitable to control apple scab, black spot on roses, and brown rot on fruit. As an added bonus, it acidifies the soil for acid loving plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons and heathers.

1. 5 teaspoons powdered wettable sulfur (1 ounce)
2. 3 gallons water

Combine the sulfur and about two cups of water in a bucket. Mix into a paste and then add the rest of the water, stirring continuously until well mixed.

Spray on the plants and trees at ten day intervals, as needed, to control fungus disease. Agitate sprayer during spraying to keep well mixed.

Note: Do not use on Cucumber or melons, and never use it within a four weeks before or after any oil spray on foliage. Also, do not spray sulfur when the temperatures are hotter than 80° or your risk damage to sulfur - sensitive plants such as tomatoes, viburnums, raspberries, grapes and blueberries.