

Fungicides for the Gardener.

I was asked by one of our members if there was a suitable treatment for blight now that Dithane has been withdrawn. This started me on a hunt for suitable products, with no joy at all. The range of true fungicides available to the gardener is almost non-existent.

1. Bordeaux Mixture is a blend of **Copper Sulphate** and Hydrated Lime. It is very effective for blight on both tomatoes and potatoes, as well as celery leaf spot, canker on cherries and plums, peach leaf curl and rusts of both gooseberry and blackcurrant.

The downside is that the product can no longer be sold and stocks must be used up by 30th November 2015. It is possible that it may come back to the market once registration problems are resolved.

Copper Oxochloride is excellent against a wide range of fungal problems. Once again, products containing Copper Oxochloride, such as Bayer Fruit & Vegetable Disease Control have been withdrawn and should not be used after 30th November 2015.

2. Products containing **Difenoconazole** have already been withdrawn from the market and can no longer be used.

3. Products containing **Myclobutanil** such as **Systhane Fungus Fighter** are to be withdrawn from sale on 30th November this year and should not be used after 30th November 2016.

4. **Plant/Fish Oil Blends** such as **Vitax Organic 2ml** carry no statutory conditions of use and are not submitted to the same regulatory controls as synthetic pesticides. Can be used against some mildews and a range of pests.

5. **Tar Acids/Oils** such as **Arnulatox** and **Jeyes Fluid** are no longer labelled for pesticide use but are available as a sterilising agent.

6. **Tebuconazole/Trifloxystrobin** are combined as a systemic fungicide to treat blackspot, mildew rust and leaf spots on roses and other ornamental plants. **Fungus Fighter** and **Fungus Fighterplus** are supplied by Bayer for this application.

7. **Triticonazole** is a systemic fungicide for blackspot, mildew and rust on ornamental plants. **Roseclear Ultra** from Scotts is available.

8. There are a range of products available that use a physical barrier to control some pests and diseases. They can be used on all edible and ornamental plants and there is no harvest interval. Possibly active against whitefly, aphids and some mildew.

SB Plant Invigorator by Stan Brouard Ltd. Is a liquid concentrate. I have not been aware of this product previously but Fargo, one of our regular suppliers, stock this material – I will find out more!

Coming back to the original enquiry, the answer is that for the prevention and treatment of blight, there is nothing available on the market for the gardener. I do have a few containers of Bordeaux Mixture on the shelf, but use of this product must stop by the end of this year.