

Brief: #05312024-1



Natural Fungicide

Fruit suggests it may be suffering from a fungal or bacterial infection.

This can be seen from the irregular, discolored, and possibly decaying patches on its surface.

Here are some steps you can take to address this issue:

Remove Affected Fruit: Remove and properly dispose of any affected fruit to prevent the spread of infection.

Prune Affected Branches: Prune any branches showing signs of infection to improve air circulation and reduce humidity around the fruit.

Use Fungicide: Apply a suitable fungicide to control fungal infections. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe and effective use.

Improve Air Circulation: Ensure that the tree has good air circulation by properly spacing plants and pruning dense foliage.

Monitor and Maintain: Regularly monitor the tree for signs of infection and maintain proper care, including watering and fertilization, to keep the tree healthy.

If the problem persists, consider consulting with a local agricultural extension service or plant pathologist for more specific advice.

Stay Vigilant and Act Early!

Protect your soursop trees by staying informed and proactive.

Early detection and prompt action can save your crop from significant damage.

For more information or assistance, contact your local agricultural extension service or a professional pest control service.

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image shows a caterpillar or larva, which might be the pest responsible for the damage to the soursop fruit. This insect is likely a type of fruit borer or leaf-eating caterpillar that affects soursop and other similar fruit trees.

Steps to Manage and Prevent Infestation

Manual Removal: Regularly inspect your trees and manually remove any visible caterpillars or larvae.

Pruning: Remove and destroy any affected fruits and leaves to reduce the population of pests.

Natural Predators: Encourage the presence of natural predators like birds or beneficial insects (e.g., parasitic wasps) that feed on these larvae.

Neem Oil: Apply neem oil or other organic insecticides to help manage the pest population. Follow the instructions on the product for safe application.

Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt): Consider using Bt, a natural bacterium that is effective against caterpillars. It is safe for plants and non-target organisms, including humans.

Good Hygiene: Keep the area around your trees clean from fallen leaves and debris where pests can hide and breed.

Regular Monitoring: Consistently monitor your trees for signs of pest infestation to catch and address issues early.

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Natural Fungicides for Plants

Using natural fungicides is an excellent way to manage plant diseases while minimizing environmental impact. Here are several effective natural fungicides that can be used for plant care:

Neem Oil: Extracted from the seeds of the neem tree, neem oil is a versatile natural fungicide and insecticide. It is effective against various fungal diseases like powdery mildew, rust, and black spot. Neem oil also helps control various pests.

Baking Soda (Sodium Bicarbonate): A simple mixture of baking soda and water can be used as a preventative fungicide spray. It is particularly effective against mildew. Typically, you can mix 1 tablespoon of baking soda with 1 gallon of water and a few drops of liquid soap to help it adhere to plant surfaces.

Garlic: Garlic has natural fungicidal properties. A homemade spray can be made by blending two cloves of garlic with a quart of water, letting it steep overnight, and then straining it before use.

Apple Cider Vinegar: Containing acetic acid, apple cider vinegar can help control fungus. Mix about 3 tablespoons of apple cider vinegar with 1 gallon of water. Use sparingly, as higher concentrations can harm the plant.

Hydrogen Peroxide: Used in low concentrations, hydrogen peroxide can help prevent infection by killing fungus on contact. Mix a solution of 1 part hydrogen peroxide to 9 parts water.

Cornmeal: Cornmeal has antifungal properties and can be used as a soil amendment or in a water infusion to treat fungal infections. To make a cornmeal tea, soak 1 cup of cornmeal in 5 gallons of water, strain, and spray directly on the plants.

Chamomile Tea: Known for its antifungal properties due to the presence of phenolic compounds, chamomile tea can be used as a spray to treat seedlings to prevent damping off and other fungal diseases.

Copper Sulfate: Although copper sulfate is a mineral and not organic, it is used in organic farming as a fungicide. It must be used cautiously as it can accumulate in the soil and potentially harm beneficial microorganisms.

When using any fungicide, natural or synthetic, it is crucial to follow application guidelines carefully to avoid damaging your plants.

Also, always test the fungicide on a small area of the plant.

Protect Your Soursop Trees: Identifying and Managing Pests

Are your soursop fruits looking damaged? Act now to save your crop!

- Common Issues with Soursop Trees
- Fungal and Bacterial Infections
- **Symptoms: Irregular, discolored, and decaying patches on the fruit.**

Actions:

- Remove and dispose of affected fruit.
- Prune affected branches to improve air circulation.
- Apply fungicide according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Ensure good air circulation by spacing plants and pruning dense foliage.
- Caterpillar or Larval Infestations

Symptoms: Presence of small caterpillars or larvae on fruits and leaves.

Actions:

- Manually remove visible caterpillars or larvae.
- Remove and destroy affected fruits and leaves.
- Encourage natural predators like birds or beneficial insects.
- Apply neem oil or organic insecticides.
- Use *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) for a natural solution.
- Maintain cleanliness around trees to prevent breeding grounds.
- Regularly monitor for signs of infestation.

Stay Vigilant and Act Early!

Protect your soursop trees by staying informed and proactive. Early detection and prompt action can save your crop from significant damage.

For more information or assistance, contact your local agricultural extension service or a professional pest control service.

This flyer can be printed and distributed to local farmers and gardeners to help them protect their soursop trees from pests and infections.

