

## CHANGES TO FAMILIAR CHEMICALS IN 2015

**Every year there changes to the products available to use in our gardens. With a new raft of EU regulation coming in to effect this year we thought a little summary would be in order.**

### **Withdrawn**

Resolva Fungus Fighter, Bordeaux Mixture, Vitax Copper fungicide, Bayer Fruit & Vegetable Disease Control, Westlands Plant Rescue Fungicide,

### **Replaced**

Murphy's Sequestrene has gone, use instead Vitax Seaweed plus Sequestered Iron or Chempack Sequestered Iron, Verdone lawn weedkiller has changed to Weedol Lawn Weedkiller & Pathclear has been replaced by Weedol Pathclear Weedkiller, Sulphur Candles have gone but a new 'fumigant' is available although usage may differ slightly,

### **Reformulated**

Fungus fighter concentrated form now treats box blight but is no longer suitable for use on edible plants.

**With the changes to so many of our critical fungal control products there are a range of new challenges for gardeners. Particular issues will be Peach Leaf Curl, Apple and Pear Scab, Blight and Grape Mildew.**

### **Our advice**

Available via our website, our leaflets have been updated to support these changes. Updated leaflets include Cherry Shot Hole, Bacterial Canker, Cherry Canker, Pear Scab, Top 10 Pests & Diseases, Scab (apple), Autumn Lawncare, Potatoes made easy, Get your lawn in order, Weed Control,

### **Consider companion planting**

For example, garlic is a natural fungicide and pesticide and both the wild and the cultivated varieties can be utilized. Planted beneath an apple tree it protects against apple scab, under a peach tree against leaf curl, near tomatoes against red spider mite and mosquitoes avoid areas where it grows. As for roses, it is reckoned that the pungent odour of garlic acts as a repellent to aphids, thus saving them from attack.

### **Make the right choice**

When choosing new plants for the garden look out for varieties that are resistant to known problems – see the section at the bottom of this leaflet to get you started!

### **Potato Blight – Non-chemical control**

The genetic population of the fungus is ever changing and new findings have shown that one dominant new strain seems to have overcome major gene resistance. In the past some potato varieties had shown some resistance, these included 'Cara', 'Kondor', 'Orla', 'Markies' and 'Valor', but this is not currently effective.

- Infected material should be deeply buried (more than 45cm deep), consigned to the green waste collection or, ideally, burned rather than composted
- Earthing up potatoes provides some protection to tubers
- Early-harvested potatoes are more likely to escape infection
- When infection levels reach about 25 percent of leaves affected or marks appear on stems cut off foliage (haulm) severing the stalks near soil level and raking up debris. When the skin on tubers has hardened, after about two weeks, the tubers are dug up and stored. To prevent slug damage avoid leaving tubers in soil after this time
- Operate a rotation to reduce the risk of infection, ideally of at least four years
- Destroy all potatoes left in the soil and waste from storage before the following spring

### **Tomato Blight – Non-chemical control**

Do not over water the plants. Give your plants as much ventilation as possible, particularly if growing in a greenhouse or under cover.

Always use new compost each year, disposing of used – and possible contaminated - compost with consideration. Never replant in used compost.

### **Grape Mildew - Non-chemical control**

- Clean up and destroy fallen leaves to reduce the amount of downy mildew pathogen surviving the winter
- Mulch plants each season to avoid drought stress, which predisposes them to powdery mildew infection, and make sure vines are adequately watered helping to prevent this problem
- Avoid overhead watering as this increases humidity around the foliage which makes the plants more prone to powdery and downy mildews
- Keep vines under glass well ventilated
- Prune overcrowded shoots to improve air circulation around the foliage
- Consider heating the glasshouse in dull weather to avoid excessive humidity

## **Resistant Varieties:**

**Resistant varieties are going to increasingly important choices for the future. Our range of fruit trees in particular will probably change significantly to make sure that the plants we sell have the best possible chance of looking good and remaining trouble free.**

**Grapes** - A number of grape cultivars show some resistance to powdery mildew including the wine varieties 'Leon Millot', 'Orion', 'Seyval Blanc' and 'Triomphe d'Alsace' and the outdoor dessert variety 'Brant'.

### **Scab resistant apples (RHS list)**

'Adam's Pearmain', 'Alfriston', 'Ashmead's Kernel', 'Barnack Beauty', 'Beauty of Bath', 'Brownlee's Russet', 'Charles Ross', 'Cheddar Cross', 'Claygate Pearmain', 'Cockle Pippin', 'Cornish Aromatic', 'Cornish Gilliflower', 'Court Pendu Plat', 'Crawley Beauty', 'D'Arcy Spice', 'Discovery', 'Duke of Devonshire', 'Edward the Seventh', 'Ellison's Orange', 'Emneth Early', 'Encore', 'Epicure', 'Exeter Cross', 'Golden Reinette', 'Grenadier', 'Ingrid Marie', 'John Standish', 'King of the Pippins', 'King Russet', 'Lane's Prince Albert', 'Lord Derby', 'Lord Hindlip', 'Melba', 'Merton Russet', 'Millers Seedling', 'Monarch', 'Mother', 'Newton Wonder', 'Orleans Reinette', 'Park Farm Pippin', 'Pinova', 'Ponsford', 'Rajka', 'Red Devil', 'Reinette du Canada', 'Resi', 'Reverend W. Wilks', 'Rosemary Russet', 'Ross Nonpareil', 'Rubinola', 'Santana' (but is very susceptible to canker), 'Stirling Castle', 'Suntan', 'Tom Putt', 'Topaz', 'Wagener', 'Wealthy', 'Wheeler's Russet', 'Winston', 'Woolbrook Russet'.

### **Scab resistant pears**

'Beurre Hardy', 'Docteur Jules Guyot', 'Fondante d' Automne', 'Gorham', 'Hessle', 'Jargonelle', 'Josephine de Malines', 'Nouveau Poiteau', 'Catillac', 'Black Worcester', 'Souvenir du Congrès'.

### **Leaf curl resistant peaches**

Some leaf curl resistance is claimed for 'Avalon Pride', 'Red Haven', 'Harken', 'Dixired', 'Redwing', 'Advance', 'Hylands', 'Robin Red Breast' and 'Rochester'.

### **Blight resistant potatoes**

The 'Sarpò' range exhibit more effective resistance than other cultivars and can be grown satisfactorily without fungicide protection. Some old favourites are very susceptible, eg 'Arran Pilot', 'King Edward', 'Majestic', 'Sharpe's Express'. Varieties that were previously rated resistant have been retested against this new dominant strain and the results have been published.

### **Blight resistant tomatoes**

Tomatoes are generally very susceptible, but the varieties 'Ferline', 'Legend' and 'Fantasio' are claimed to show some resistance, but will eventually succumb in wet, warm weather. It is probably best not to rely on host resistance for blight control in tomatoes.