

REDUCING PESTICIDES

IT'S PERFECTLY NATURAL

Toronto's Pesticide By-law restricts the use of pesticides, but allows you to use certain lower-risk pest control products. Look for products with only these ingredients to help control weeds and insects. Always read the product label and carefully follow directions.

Problem	Solutions
Weeds in lawn or garden	corn gluten meal
Weeds in sidewalk, patio stones, driveway, etc.	acetic acid (horticultural vinegar); herbicidal soap/fatty acids
Grubs in lawn	nematodes
Aphids on plants	insecticidal soap/fatty acids; pyrethrum/pyrethrins
Black spot, powdery mildew on plants or flowers	sulphur
Ants, earwigs, cockroaches	silicon dioxide/diatomaceous earth; borax/boric acid
Scale on plants	mineral/horticultural oil
Caterpillars	bacillus thuringiensis (Bt)
Slugs in garden	silicon dioxide/diatomaceous earth; ferric phosphate

Product label ingredients – glossary of terms

Corn Gluten Meal – a by-product of corn that prevents the germination of dandelion and crab-grass seeds. Does not control established weeds.

Acetic Acid (horticultural vinegar) – stronger than household vinegar. Kills weeds on contact. Works best on younger weeds.

Soap/Fatty Acids – for control of either insects (insecticidal soap) or weeds (herbicidal soap). Fatty acids in soap affect the cells of plants and insects, causing death.

Nematodes – microscopic-sized worms that attack most types of grubs in the soil.

Pyrethrum/Pyrethrins – a toxin made from pyrethrum daisies. It is effective against a wide range of insects.

Sulphur – a naturally occurring element that controls fungi by preventing the germination of fungal spores.

Diatomaceous Earth – also known as Silicon Dioxide. A powder made from crushed fossils of marine organisms. Each particle has tiny, sharp edges that kill many types of insects.

Borax/Boric Acid – a white powder mined from deposits in the earth. Boric acid attacks the nervous system of insects.

Mineral/Horticultural Oil – coats and kills insects growing on the plant. Caution: may also kill beneficial insects.

Bacillus Thuringiensis (Bt.) – a naturally occurring bacterium that attacks the digestive system of insects.

