

PS1 Plant Soap from McHort

PS1 is NOT a registered pesticide.

It has not undergone independent or regulatory body efficacy or toxicity trials.

Use at this time is experimental and entirely at the users risk.

The concept:

To produce a product that may suppress or dissuade certain plant pest activity , reduce or eliminate the risk of phytotoxicity and remain compatible with an integrated pest management programme.

Many chemical therapeutants require us to have a withholding period between last application and the introduction of predators or parasites.

The mode of action:

Simply, the high viscosity plant extract when diluted in water and sprayed onto plant leaves and stems infested with crawling insects covers and smothers them.

The most likely effected plant pests would be those that breath through their exoskeletons and are less rather than more mobile. Whilst we make no claims as to controlling any or specific pests those that are less mobile include Scale, Mealy bug, Whitefly egg stage, Spider mite juveniles, Leafhopper, Thrips and Aphids.

The advantages :

This methodology offers virtually no residual effect on the plant and little if any effect on highly mobile pollinating insects.

The material cost is modest and insects are unlikely to develop resistance .

Being a plant extract the likelihood of toxicity to either mammals or the environment is considered to be very low. Plant Soap act as a surfactant and once applied reduces surface tension of water droplets on foliage. This drier foliage surface is less hospitable to the establishment of fungal pathogens.

The disadvantages :

This is not the most efficient “Knock down” quick cure treatment.

The material may be washed off the insects it lands on before they have suffocated.

Some insects may even be able, through preening, to remove the covering of PS1 before suffocating.

The product and it's mode of action is less suited to cropping situations where frequent overhead irrigation is used.

General hints and tips when using PS1 Plant Soap.

Apply as a high volume spray, to run-off @1-3ml per litre to both sides of the leaves.

Do not spray under high light intensity or rapid drying conditions.

Trial on each plant species on a modest scale to check for safety.

Ensure that the longest interval possible between application and either rainfall or overhead irrigation can be achieved.. Several hours and even several days would be expected to achieve the best results.

Check compatibility before tank mixing with fungicides first before large scale use.

Repeat application will most certainly be better than isolated use infrequently.

Use at 5-7 day intervals.

Continue to monitor pest populations carefully and if you feel the infestation is out of control resort to considered chemical pesticide use.