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TITLE: NATURAL PESTICIDES STILL POISONS; HANDLE WITH CARE

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Just because a pesticide is “natural” doesn’t make it risk-free or automatically safer than manmade pesticides. It’s wise to have the same regard for those products as you should for other landscape and garden chemicals.

Even though botanicals and insecticidal soaps are naturally derived and are relatively safe to handle when used properly, they are still poisons, and they should be handled with the same caution as synthetic insecticides.

Natural pesticides include chemicals such as pyrethrum, as well as insecticidal soaps such as Safer. Many soaps and botanical insecticides are rated very low in toxicity to people and animals.

But it’s important to realize that not all botanical insecticides are safer than all manmade insecticides simply because they’re “natural”.

To be safe with any yard or garden chemical, follow the label instructions for handling, applying, and storing the material. Also, as with any pesticide, you should weigh the toxicity, effectiveness, environmental impact and cost of the product.