

Rice Ash

Rice ash as a soil Amendment is good in many ways. As it is burnt so is a sterile medium does not have any weeds, seeds or pests harbouring. It's crumbly nature keeps the soil well aerated and there is excellent root development. Once



added to evergreens Perennials like Gerberas, Amrayllis, Daylilies, Bidens, Cana's, etc it keeps them clean and keeps snail, slugs away from them. The Potash content in Rice Ash helps in promoting flowers their color, fragrance, quantity, size etc. Rice Ash is used a soil amendment with leaf mould, press mud, Rice Ash like a ratio of 4/3/1. It should never be used neat or only by itself, but always mixed with the rest.

Watering Techniques

Watering and its timely management plays an important role in Natural Gardening. This is so because if watering is done in full sun, most of the water will be evaporated and not absorbed by the plant. Also if it's done late in the evening or night it will lead to fungal infestation as the night is cool and additional water at that time will lead to powdery mildew, leaf mould, leaf curl etc

The Best time to water all plants is early in the morning when plants are happy to receive their water and benefit from it !

But no matter how natural all pesticides have to be used with care. Plant oils can be harmful to eyes and people can be allergic to them. So wearing gloves and a mask is recommended.

Using natural remedies has to be a lifestyle, not a duty..



by
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Organic, Natural Pesticides

Cherish the Natural World Because you are part of it and you depend on it.

In this highly poisonous, inorganic way of growing environment, the use of natural, organic methods used to counter different problems in the garden whether it's a veggie garden, fruit orchard, or flowers is a must to know.

In the first place when we talk of organic growing the foremost thing is the soil. When I talk of soil it means it has to rich enough to develop strong healthy plants that can withstand the attack of pests and diseases. Nowadays organic soilless mediums like Rice Ash, press mud play an important role in excellent soil Amendment. Adding them to the existing soil before plantation and adding them over a period of growing time helps a lot. It enables the plants to be strong, to withstand problems. The Rice Ash is a good insect repellent, keeps snails, slugs at bay as they don't like the ash sticking to their slimy bodies and don't go near it. Also it has a good amount of potash which promotes flowering, fruiting in plants.

There are many methods to use natural things to counter plant problems which are as follows.

Milk as a Fungicide

A very old method used for Gardening in UK and other countries is to use one part milk to 3 parts water, a few drops liquid soap like lemon max, mix and spray on the plants specially Roses, when have a fungal problem, leaves curl and all. Spray in full sun and can be repeated after 3/4 days. The calcium in milk is also absorbed by the Rose plant and helps in bigger, colourful, abundant blooms.



Neem Oil Spray

A very useful organic spray is the Neem oil spray. The efficiency of the spray will also depend on the quality of the Neem oil concentrate which has to be of good quality and fresh. It's recipe is a tablespoon of Neem oil which is added to 1 liter warm water and few drops lemon max. Make the soapy solution before so Neem oil is thoroughly mixed and spray this warm solution on plants affected with Aphids, early stages of Mealy Bugs, specially on edibles like veggies and fruits. Can repeat after a week or 10 days. But be careful only spray early mornings or late evenings. Never in full sunlight.



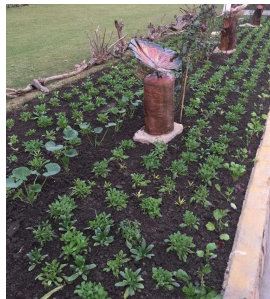
Chilli Garlic Spray

Another potent spray that needs some effort to make is the Chilli Garlic Spray. Take about 3 strong green chillies, 3 cloves garlic, crush them and soak overnight in a cup full of water. Next day strain, add a tablespoon red chillies, a tablespoon cooking oil, 2 lit of water. Mix everything and strain again. Spray the mixture on veggies like tomatoes, and others while wearing a mask. As it is very strong, but you will notice the bees are not affected while the insects are repelled or killed. Can repeat this after a week or so. Spray only early morning or late evenings.



Hygiene

This method is very important to grow good clean organic veggies. Keeping the bases of plants clean by removing weeds, debri, dead yellowing leaves regularly. As leaving them there can harbour a lot of problems that can effect the plants health and one has to resort to harmful sprays. This method has to be regularly enforced.



Tobacco Water

Take dried Tobacco leaves, a mug full, and boiling them in a lit of water for 15 minutes, leaving them overnight to cool and straining the mix the next day. Use one part of this mix and one part of water adding a few drops of liquid soap max helps in removing Aphid and early stages of Mango Mealy Bugs. Repeat after a week /10 days and spray early mornings or late in the evenings. Can repeat after a week /10 days.



Baking Powder

Using baking powder as a fungicide is also very useful. Take a teaspoon of baking powder, dissolve in a litre of water, add a few drops liquid soap, a teaspoon of cooking oil. Strain the mix and spray the mix on plants affected with leaf curl, powdery mildew, etc. Use it early mornings or late evenings. Not in full sunlight. Can repeat after a week.

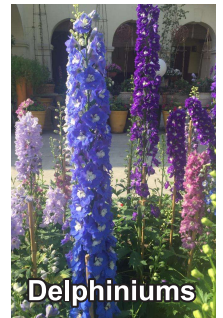


Uses of Different Kinds of Ashes.

A very neglected aspect but an age old practice in villages is the use of different kind of ashes for plant problems rectification and fertilisation. Our problem is that with the use of new methods we tend to forget the old Gold Practices of our ancestors. One should never do that but learn from the old ways and try to use them.

Manure Ash

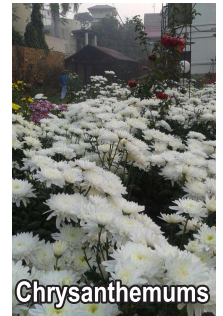
In villages an old practice to grow Garlic is to sprinkle manure ash which is burnt as fuel in homes. This ash is sprinkled on leaves, soil while weeding. It works as a Triple Agent, while repelling insect pests, absorbing excessive moisture that leads to fungus, and adding nutrients to the soil zone. I have used this mix on Liliium growing, Delphiniums, Digitalis, Chrysanthemums with amazing results. It should be sieved to remove any hard pieces so it's in a powder form. Sprinkle this powder on plants when they are in their tight bud form, not when petals are showing. Use it early in the morning when dew is on so it sticks to the top. Leave it for a day or two, it maybe unsightly but it actually really helps. After a day or two wash off powder with water so it goes in the soil zone too. What it actually does is that it stifles the insect and kills it, while fertilising the plant too.



Delphiniums



Digitalis



Chrysanthemums

Wood Ash

Wood Ash that is collected by burning wood in winter is again a very good source of nutrients For winter flowering seedlings like Geraniums, Digitalis, Delphiniums, Asters, all kind of Bulbs. Starting with a teaspoon of wood ash for a small seedling going up to a tablespoon to a mature seeding works wonders for them. It should be repeated on a weekly basis in winter. Way is to sprinkle the ash around the soil zone to help the roots and stem.

