

Comparing Fungicides: Natural vs. Conventional

	Product Base	How They Work	Residual Effect	Application
Naturally Derived Fungicides (non-synthetic active ingredients)	Extracts, micro-organisms and bacteria	Stimulate disease resistance; compete with the pathogen; may be toxic to the pathogen; how they work not as well understood	Tend to have short residual; may require multiple applications; work best preventively	Best applied preventively (before symptoms); good coverage is important; always read the label
Conventional Fungicides (synthetic active ingredients)	Active ingredients chemically synthesized and created artificially	Inhibit specific enzymes; some inhibit single sites in the fungus; some inhibit multiple sites in the fungus	Tend to have longer residual; may require multiple applications but fewer than naturals	May be preventive or curative (after symptoms); some are systemic and perfect coverage is less important; may be phytotoxic if not applied according to the label; some products may be applied to the soil