

Comparing Insecticides: Natural vs. Conventional

	Product Base	How They Work	Residual Effect	Application
Natural Insecticides (non-synthetic)	Extracted or gathered from a natural source, such as a plant or part of a plant (i.e., seed or oils), bacteria, fungi or microorganisms.	The insecticides' mode of action on insects includes stomach poison and contact poison, and they can perform with residual or systemic action. Insecticides can affect the insect's nervous system, inhibit essential enzymes, cause suffocation or inhibit growth.	Short - The majority of natural insecticides have a short residual in the environment, and may require several applications.	Insect must either ingest or come in contact with the insecticide. Thorough coverage is imperative. Read all label directions prior to use, and spot treat first to check for phytotoxicity.
Conventional Insecticides (synthetic)	Chemically synthesized or created artificially with chemicals - for example, pyrethroid emulates pyrethrum and imidacloprid emulates nicotine.		Longer - The active ingredients remain stable in sunlight, allowing for less frequent applications. Some synthetics are systemic, which allows the active ingredients to be translocated within a plant, protecting it longer.	Read all label directions prior to use.