

## **Natural compounds and plant protection**

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The interest in the use of natural compounds for phytoprotection stems from the need to eliminate the environmental and health impact of the old synthetic pesticides. The expanding literature on the possibility of use of these natural compounds is reviewed and our interest is focused on the effects of vegetable oils and monoterpenes on plant pathogens. Vegetable oils and monoterpenes have been used as acaricides to control plant growth but they were also proved to be active against many other insects and microorganisms. In addition, monoterpenes' possible attractant activity of natural enemies of pests may offer novel applications of the use of natural compounds for exploitation of beneficial animals in organic agriculture.

However, a few cases have been reported where either natural compound treated plants attracted plant-damaging insects or phytotoxic effects on cultivated plants were observed. Since there is strong evidence that plant-based natural monoterpenes could be used for pest and weed control in organic agriculture, phytotoxicity on crop plants and effects on non-target soil animals and natural enemies of pests should be further investigated.