



## Natural Pesticides No. TNP4

Pyrethrum, *Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium*

*The white flowerheads of the pyrethrum plant possess insecticidal properties. Pyrethrum is most productive at altitudes of above 1600 meters and ideally in semi-arid conditions where winters are cool. On richer soils the insecticidal properties are reduced.*

*Note: Care should be taken when handling pyrethrum. Repeated contact can cause rashes and irritations. Inhaling pyrethrum dust can cause sickness.*

### Preparations

Pyrethrum should be picked on a warm day when the flowers are fully open. Then pile up into small heaps in the sun to warm through. Spread out to dry on thick mats in a shady area. If they are to be stored, they need to be kept in an air-tight container in the dark. Light significantly reduces the effectiveness of the flowers. Pyrethrum is a contact poison, it repels pests and acts as an antifeedant.

- **Pyrethrum powder**

Grind flowers to a dust. The finer the dust, the more effective the powder is. Mix with a carrier like talc or lime (pyrethrum can also be used pure).

**How to use:** Sprinkle over infested plants. Pyrethrum is useful against aphids, coffee bugs, Colorado beetles, flea beetles, grasshoppers, caterpillars, thrips and moths.

- **Pyrethrum liquid**

Mix 1 to 1.5kg pyrethrum flowers with 3kg liquid soap and 100 litres water. Strain through a sieve or cloth and use immediately as a spray. The soap increases the effect of the pyrethrum four times.

**How to use:** Use the preparation quickly as a spray against most insects including aphids, coffee bugs, Colorado beetles, flea beetles, grasshoppers, caterpillars, thrips and moths.

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