



HOW TO USE BOTANICALS

Many plants can be used to make botanical sprays. These sprays can be applied to your crops to protect them from pests. *Tephrosia vogellii* (mtetezga) and *Vernonia amygdalina* (chisoyo) are two of the plants that can be used to make botanical sprays. Farmers from Mzimba tested these plants to learn which ones work best. They found out that remedies made from these plants can protect maize and beans from pests such as fall army worm, stalk borer, caterpillars, aphids and weevils. Mtetezga works very well for beans and Chisoyo works very well for maize.

Safety instructions: Always wash your hands after making the preparation and when you apply it to your crops, wear a cloth over your mouth and nose as a precaution.

Step 1:

Gather leaves from the plant or plants that you want to use.

Step 2:

Dry the leaves in a dry, shady place.

Step 3:

Pound the leaves to make powder. Store the powder in a dark, dry place.

Step 4:

Mix 1 kilogram powder with 5 litres of water and 1 spoon of soap shavings.

Step 5:

Soak the solution overnight. Then strain the solution using a cloth. Remember when you are mixing and spraying the botanicals, wear something to protect your hands, like sugar bags. Wear a cloth over your nose and mouth.

Step 6:

You can use a broom to apply or a plastic bottle as a sprayer. Apply the spray to your crops in the afternoon.



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