

# Diagnosing Sick Plants

To determine the problem with a sick plant:

- Begin by examining the plant from the ground up.
- Examine the roots if possible. Examine the stem for lesions, soft or dark spots. Examine the leaves for broken stems, spots, chewed areas, etc.
- Examine growing conditions: air, light, water, etc.
- Note the symptoms.
- Bring a sample with you to the garden centre if needed. The sample should be from stem to leaf of the problem area.
- Determine the insect or disease problem before spraying.

## Pesticide Types

- Systemic: works inside the plant by absorbing the chemical.
- Non-systemic: works outside the plant, acts like a barrier.

## Pesticide Forms

- Ready to use
- Dusts
- Concentrates
- Granular or pellets

## Is more better? No!

Always follow the directions exactly or you could harm your plants. When mixing pesticides, a mixture which is too strong or too weak may allow the insect to become resistant to the pesticide.

## Alternatives to Chemicals

- Pick insects off by hand.
- Remove dead, diseased, and injured parts or whole plants.
- Encourage birds and beneficial insects.
- Wash down with insecticidal soap.
- Spray water on the leaves and undersides to dislodge insects.

