# Pest and Disease Management

Pest and disease problems usually indicate an underlying problem, be it shallow topsoil, too much water or fertilizer, a plant in the wrong location, or inappropriate mowing practices.

**Identifying the root cause of the pest or disease is the first step for solving the problem in an organic land care program.**

If the pest remains above tolerance levels, any use of organic pesticides should be the last resort after correctly identifying the problem, correcting any underlying problem (s), and monitoring. This approach is very similar to Integrated Pest Management (IPM); the difference is, in an organic program, an approved organic pesticide would be used as a last resort instead of a synthetic pesticide

Examples of pesticides allowed under an organic program include, but are not limited to, insecticidal soaps, horticultural spray oils, botanical insecticides such as neem, boric acid, food-grade extracts such as from hot pepper, elemental sulfur, *Bacillus thuringiensis* or BT based products, and biological fungicides such as *Bacillus subtilis*.