

River Detectives Program

Pesticide resources

To support the Pesticide Watch program



COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAM

Many schools in the North Central CMA region have opted in to collect samples for Deakin University's Pesticide Watch program as a way to value add to River Detectives citizen science opportunities. The following resources may assist you explore the topic of pesticides with students. Please view videos yourself first and use with discretion.

Pesticide Resources				
Resource	Type	Age group	Resource description	Activity suggestions
<u>Do we really need pesticides?</u>	Video	Teacher Mid /Upper Prim Lower Sec Upper Sec	Acknowledges that pest control is a necessary part of farming and feeding the world. Clearly outlines the pros and cons of pesticide use.	Do a PMI listing pros, cons and thoughts that emerge Debate the use of pesticides from different viewpoints Brainstorm possible solutions and ways to meet the needs of both food production and the environment Imagine you are a scientist with an unlimited budget – what innovative new alternatives could you invent?
<u>How do pesticides affect our environment and human health</u>	Video	Teacher Mid /Upper Prim Lower Sec Upper Sec	This video involves reading captions – younger students may need narration. Outlines the impacts of pesticides – watch with discretion as facts may be alarming.	How does this video make you feel ? What can we do to keep ourselves safe ? What can we do to address the bigger picture issue ? Research organic food options in your community ?
<u>How one scientist took on the chemical industry</u>	Video	Teacher Mid /Upper Prim Lower Sec Upper Sec	In 1958, after receiving a letter describing the deaths of songbirds due to the pesticide known as DDT, Rachel Carson began an investigation into the misuse of chemicals and their toll on nature.	Brainstorm the challenges and rewards Rachel Carson would have experienced in her career Reflect on Rachel Carson's contribution and how it inspires you What can we learn from Rachel Carson's story ?

<u>Using good bugs to fight bad bugs could be key to pesticide – free farming</u>	Video	Teacher Upper Prim Lower Sec Upper Sec	A segment from ABC's Landline about alternative methods to control pests at the large farm scale.	Invite a guest to speak about regenerative agriculture methods Interview a farmer using alternative methods to control pests
<u>Safely control pests in the vegie patch</u>	Video	Teacher Mid /Upper Prim Lower Sec Upper Sec	A segment from ABC's Gardening Australia about alternative methods to control pests at the home garden scale.	Try out some of the methods in the school vegie garden / orchard. Do before and after bug surveys and collect data on the bugs you find / catch Make posters / flyers / fact sheets with instructions for these alternative methods and promote them in your school / broader community.
<u>Growing healthy plants using natural pesticides</u>	Lesson Plan	Teacher Mid /Upper Prim Lower Sec	A lesson plan from Junior Landcare with curriculum links, activities (including a recipe to make your own organic pesticide) and other resources	Follow the lesson plan and make your own pesticide Try it out in the school vegie garden / orchard Explore the other resources mentioned
<u>Pesticide Use Risk Scenario Platform</u>	Video	Teacher Lower Sec Upper Sec	A summary of CSIRO's platform that enables stakeholders who use and certify agricultural chemicals to more sustainably control pests and diseases.	Research the PURS platform and identify how it is bridging the gap to make adoption of alternative pest management methods more achievable.
<u>Field Guide to Victorian Fauna</u>	App	Teacher Mid /Upper Prim Lower Sec Upper Sec	A free app with a user friendly bug field guide	Do a bug blitz by spending time in the school yard / garden identifying bugs
<u>iNaturalist</u>	App Website	Teacher Mid /Upper Prim Lower Sec Upper Sec	An excellent platform that not allows you to identify bugs but submit a photo for identification and log your results to a worldwide database	Play with the iNaturalist platform to photograph, identify and record bug sightings to understand the hidden insect kingdom that pesticides interact with
<u>Wild Pollinator Count</u>	Website	Teacher Mid /Upper Prim Lower Sec Upper Sec	A great activity to raise awareness of pollinators and the important role they play	Participate in the annual spring pollinator count Share your findings at assembly, in the newsletter.
<u>When Bee Foundation</u>	Website	Teacher Mid /Upper Prim Lower Sec Upper Sec	A website full of resources and links to understand the role of bees in food production	Plant a bee-friendly garden Spread the word about bee facts and how lost we'd be without them Use resources from their website