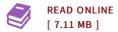# Crop Protection in Medieval Agriculture

By Jan C. Zadoks

Sidestone Press Okt 2013, 2013. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 259x182x22 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Mediterranean and West European pre-modern agriculture (agriculture before 1600) was by necessity 'organic agriculture'. Crop protection is part and parcel of this agriculture, with weed control in the forefront. Crop protection is embedded in the medieval agronomy text books but specialised sections do occur. Weeds, insects and diseases are described but identification in modern terms is not easy. The pre-modern 'Crop Portfolio' is well filled, certainly in the Mediterranean area. The medieval 'Pest Portfolio' differs from the modern one because agriculture then was a Low External Input Agriculture, and because the proportion of cultivated to non-cultivated land was drastically lower than today. The pre-modern 'Control Portfolio' is surprisingly rich, both in preventive and interventive measures. Prevention was by risk management, intensive tillage, and careful storage. Intervention was mechanical and chemical. Chemical intervention used natural substances such as sulphur, pitch, and 'botanicals'. Some fifty plant species are mentioned in a crop protection context. Though application methods look rather modern they are typically low-tech. Among them are seed disinfection, spraying, dusting, fumigation, grease banding, wound care, and hand-picking but...

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Reviews

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