



earth-wise guide to

Aphids



aphid, magnified

description

Tiny (1/16-1/8") insect with soft body, long legs and antennae; cornicles or "tail-pipes" on tip of abdomen; 250 species; reproduce quickly; attack new growth or underside of leaf; tend to be plant specific

infestation

Suck sap from plants and excrete clear, sticky "honey-dew" that often grows black, sooty fungus that blocks sunlight from leaves; feeding can stunt growth, deform and discolor, or cause leaves to drop prematurely; usually attack new growth; some aphids transmit plant diseases

attack

- Bedding plants
- Crape myrtle
- Hibiscus
- Oaks
- Oleanders
- Pecans
- Roses
- Vegetables

Least-Toxic solutions

- Monitor often for early detection and to determine if control is needed; natural predators may make treatment unnecessary
- For minor infestations, spray host plants with water at high pressure to dislodge aphids
- Introduce ladybugs or lacewings and other beneficial insects to your landscape after infestation has been identified - for best results follow release instructions carefully; best to release in an enclosed area
- Use sticky barriers to prevent ants from tending aphids and protecting them from natural predators
- Help control aphids with insecticidal soaps and horticultural oils
- Use a row cover to physically keep the aphids off vegetable crops while allowing air, light and water exchange
- Use natural or slow-release fertilizer to avoid excessive new growth
- Most aphids are host-plant specific and usually don't move to other species

If You Must Use a Pesticide...

- Systemic pesticides are taken up by the plant and make its tissues and fluids toxic to feeding aphids. Non-systemic pesticides must be applied to all infested plant surfaces for best results, because they must come into direct contact with the insects
- Do not use systemic pesticides on plants you intend to eat
- Avoid applying broad spectrum pesticides - they destroy beneficial insects as well as pests and leave trees or shrubs unprotected if pests return
- Apply only to plants specified on the label - some formulations injure tender ornamental plants and new growth
- Mix according to directions and apply only recommended dosage
- Several pesticide applications at 7-10 day intervals, or as instructed by the product label, may be needed for control
- Avoid overuse of chemicals - many pests have become resistant to certain pesticides



aphids and associated sooty mold

product toxicity comparisons

Evaluation of active ingredients only; does not include toxicity information on inert or "other" ingredients.

Toxicity/Threat:

○ low ◐ low to moderate ◑ high ● highest NA not applicable
 ? unknown toxicity ☠ banned by EPA 🌍 earth-wise

Hazards:



note	Product Name	active ingredient(s) / concentrations	human toxicity		aquatic life	birds, bees, pets	soil mobility	environmental persistence
			acute	chronic				
most toxic	Concern® Insect Killing Soap	Fatty acid soap	◐	?	◐	○	○	○
	Safer® Insecticidal Soap Multi-purpose Insect Killer w/Seaweed	Fatty acid soap 2%	◐	?	◐	○	○	○
	Bonide® Hot Pepper Wax Ready-to-Use	Capsaicin and related Capsaicinoids 0.184%	◐	?	◐	○	?	?
	Garden Safe® Fungicide 3-in-1 Ready-to-Use	Extract of neem oil 0.9%	◐	?	◐	◑	○	○
	Orange Guard® Home Pest Control	D-limonene	◑	?	◐	◐	○	○
	Schultz™ Rose & Flower Insect Spray	Pyrethrins .02%, Piperonyl Butoxide 0.20%	◐	◐	◑	◑	○	○
	Ortho® Malathion Plus™ Insect Spray Concentrate	Malathion 50%	◐	?	◑	●	○	◐
	Ortho® Orthenex® Garden Insect & Disease Control Concentrate	Acephate 4%, Triforine 3.25%, Fenbutatin oxide 0.75%	◐	◑	◐	●	◐	◐
	Bayer Advanced™ Complete Insect Killer Dust for Gardens Ready-to-Use	Carbaryl 0.126%	◐	◑	◐	●	◐	◐
	Concern® Multi-Purpose Insect Killer	Pyrethrins 0.02%, Piperonyl Butoxide	◐	●	◐	◐	○	○
	Bayer Advanced™ PowerForce® Mosquito Killer Plus Outdoor Fogger	Tetramethrin 0.15%, Permethrin 0.15%, Piperonyl butoxide 0.75%	◐	◑	●	◐	○	◐/○
	Bayer Advanced™ Tree & Shrub Insect Control Concentrate	Imidacloprid 1.47%	◐	?	●	◐	◑	◑
	Bonide® All Seasons® Spray Oil	Petroleum oil 98%	◐	?	●	●	?	?
	Ortho® Bug-B-Gon® Max® Garden & Landscape Insect Killer Ready-to-Use	Esfenvalerate 0.0033%	◐	◐	●	●	○	◐/○
GardenTech® Sevin® Ready-to-Use 5% Dust Bug Killer	Carbaryl 5%	◐	◑	●	●	◐	◑	

The City of Austin and the Texas Cooperative Extension developed this information sheet as a comparative reference only. Listing of specific product trade names does not constitute an endorsement of its use. Many other pesticides and pesticide products are available and may be suitable for use other than those listed in these tables.

Products rated by Grady J. Glenn, Ph.D., B.C.E., of the Pesticide Education Program, Texas Cooperative Extension who can be reached for questions at (979) 862-1035. The rating system was developed by Philip Dickey of the Washington Toxics Coalition.

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