

HEALTHY LANDSCAPE PROBLEM SOLVER



APHIDS *and* MITES

Aphids are small, pear-shaped insects which suck plant sap from tender plant tissues. Their feeding causes leaf, bud and flower distortions. Aphids produce a sticky substance called honeydew that supports the growth of sooty mold and the spread of viral diseases.

Mites are barely visible but can cause significant plant injury. Damage appears as a light speckling on leaves and a bronze discoloration. To diagnose, tap an infested branch over white paper. Mites will appear as tiny moving specks.

READ THE LABEL BEFORE BUYING ANY PESTICIDE. Re-read the label before using, storing or disposing of the pesticide — the label is the law. Following label instructions will help reduce risks to human health and the environment.



PROJECT SPONSORED BY SOCRRA
In cooperation with: MSU Extension - Oakland County
Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association
Michigan Department of Agriculture

Funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
August 2000

APHID AND MITE — CONTROL OPTIONS

There are usually several management options for solving any pest or disease problem. Use the non-pesticide approach whenever possible, saving pesticide use as the last line of defense. If a pest is identified at a damaging level, select a control targeted to the problem.

This is called “Integrated Pest Management” or “IPM”.

PREVENTING INSECT INFESTATIONS

Avoid heavy doses of highly soluble nitrogen fertilizer. Plant a variety of pollen and nectar flowers, and herbs which attract beneficial insects.

CONTROL OPTIONS

First observe the aphid or mite problem for several days-allowing the natural enemies of aphids and mites to appear. Prune infested branches and continue observations.

Strong water spray: Knock aphids and mites off of plants with a strong spray from a garden hose. Repeat often, since new populations develop quickly.

Beneficial insects such as ladybugs (lady beetles) and praying mantids: Release insects at the base of plants, according to instructions.

Horticultural oil: Spray on trees in late winter/early spring to smother overwintering eggs. Use a summer concentration during the growing season to control crawlers as well as eggs. For spider mites, timing of applications is critical. Follow label directions.

Insecticidal soap: Spray during growing season, following label directions.

Sources of information:

Greg Patchan, Horticulture Agent, MSU Extension - Oakland County.
Ellis and Bradley, *Natural Insect and Disease Control*, Rodale Press
Olkowski, et. al., *Common-Sense Pest Control*, Taunton Press

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Oakland County Garden Hotline: 248/858-0902

National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN): 1-800-858-7378
(Information about environmental and health effects of specific chemicals)

Household pesticide disposal: Call SOCRRA for an appointment: 248/288-5153

Website: healthylandscapes.com