

(revision date:5/20/2014)

Plum, Prune (Fresh): Leafhoppers

Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for successful plant problem management.

Biology

Leafhoppers are typically found on the underside of leaves. Immature leafhoppers (nymphs) are usually less than 1/10" long and white to greenish or yellowish in color. Adults are white and about 1/8" long. Leafhoppers resemble aphids but are larger and more active. They feed by sucking plant juices, often causing damaged leaves to develop a white to yellow speckling or mottling. Severely damaged leaves may turn brown and shoots may curl and die back. Feeding leafhoppers produce honeydew, a sweet, sticky material which may attract ants or become covered with a dark growth of sooty mold. Leafhoppers rarely cause serious damage to plants, although very heavy infestations may result in premature leaf drop and small fruit.

Management Options

Non-Chemical Management

~ Several insects feed on leafhoppers including damsel bugs, assassin bugs, and parasitic wasps. Avoid use of broad-spectrum insecticides which kill beneficials.

Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!

Chemical Management

IMPORTANT: Visit Home and Garden Fact Sheets for more information on using pesticides

None recommended

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Images



~ Caption: Leafhoppers and damage on apple
~ Photo by: E.H. Beers



~ Caption: Leafhopper
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