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Pepper, Eggplant: Whitefly

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

Biology

Whiteflies are common pests in the greenhouse and garden. The adult whitefly is a tiny (1/10" or less), white, moth-like insect. They typically feed on the underside of leaves, flying up in clouds when disturbed. The immature whiteflies (nymphs) are also found on the underside of leaves, and are oval, flat, and variously-colored. Whiteflies feed by sucking sap from plant tissues. Damaged leaves wilt, turn yellow or brown, and may drop. Plants may be stunted by severe infestations. Whiteflies also produce honeydew, a sweet, sticky material which may attract ants or become covered with growth of dark sooty mold.

Management Options

Non-Chemical Management

- ~ Inspect new plants thoroughly before planting. New plants often introduce whiteflies.
- ~ Natural enemies such as ladybird beetles, spiders, and parasitic wasps help control whitefly populations. 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

Apply according to label instructions when whitefly is first seen.

Listed below are examples of pesticides that are legal in Washington. Always read and follow all label directions.

- ~ Garden Safe Fruit & Vegetable Insect Killer
 - active ingredient: pyrethrins, piperonyl butoxide
 - EPA reg no: 478-125-39609
- ~ Naturalis L
 - active ingredient: *Beauveria bassiana*
 - EPA reg no: 53871-9
- ~ Safer Brand BioNEEM Multi-Purpose Insecticide & Repellent Conc [Organic]
 - active ingredient: azadirachtin
 - EPA reg no: 70051-6-42697
- ~ Safer Brand Insect Killing Soap with Seaweed Extract II [Organic]
 - active ingredient: potassium laurate
 - EPA reg no: 42697-59
- ~ This list may not include all products registered for this use.

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Images



~ Caption: Whiteflies
~ Photo by: R.D. Akre