

(revision date:3/22/2021)

## ***Crabapple: Leafrollers and leaf tiers***

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

### ***Biology***

Several species of caterpillars will roll and tie leaves of fruit trees. Characteristic signs of feeding include leaves that are webbed, rolled, and tied, often with frass in the webbing. Damaged leaves often turn brown and may drop prematurely. The larvae often group together to make nest-like structures of chewed leaves and webbing. Leafrolling and leaf tying caterpillars are usually about 1-2" long at maturity.

### ***Management Options***

#### **Non-Chemical Management**

- ~ Hand-pick and destroy individual caterpillars when practical.
- ~ Pinch to kill caterpillars inside rolled leaves.
- ~ Prune out and destroy nests of caterpillars.

*Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!*

#### **Chemical Management**

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

Pesticide recommendations are for flowering (non-edible) crabapples. Apply in early spring, but not during bloom. Use a spreader-sticker with liquid Bt formulations. Homeowners should not make foliar applications to trees over 10 ft tall. Consult a commercial pesticide applicator for treatment of trees and shrubs over 10 ft. tall.

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

- ~ All Seasons Horticultural & Dormant Spray Oil Conc [Organic]
  - active ingredient: oil/pet distillate
  - EPA reg no: 4-80
- ~ Monterey Garden Insect Spray [Organic]
  - active ingredient: spinosad (spinosyn A+D)
  - EPA reg no: 62719-314-54705
- ~ R-T-U Year-Round Spray Oil
  - active ingredient: oil/pet distillate
  - EPA reg no: 6218-78
- ~ Safer Brand BioNEEM Multi-Purpose Insecticide & Repellent Conc [Organic]
  - active ingredient: azadirachtin
  - EPA reg no: 70051-6-42697
- ~ Safer Brand Caterpillar Killer/Trees, Shrubs, & Vegetables Conc
  - active ingredient: *Bacillus thuringiensis subsp. kurstaki*
  - EPA reg no: 42697-23
- ~ This list may not include all products registered for this use.

*Crabapple: Leafrollers and leaftiers*

*Images*



~ Caption: *Rhododendron leafroller*  
~ Photo by: *Unknown*



~ Caption: *Omnivorous leafroller larva*  
~ Photo by: *Unknown*



~ Caption: *European leafroller*  
~ Photo by: *S.M. Fitzpatrick and J.T. Troubridge*



~ Caption: *Obliquebanded leafroller adult*  
~ Photo by: *J.F. Brunner*