

(revision date:2/14/2019)

Ornamental Plum: Leaf curl plum aphid

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

Biology

The leaf curl plum aphid is typically pale green to yellow in color during the summer and darker green to brown later in the year. The aphids overwinter as eggs on plum and prune trees, then may migrate to various summer hosts or remain on the plum trees. Feeding by the leaf curl plum aphid causes severe curling of leaves on plum.

Management Options

Non-Chemical Management

- ~ Wash aphids from plants with a strong stream of water.
- ~ Remove aphids by hand (when practical) to control small infestations.
- ~ Natural predators and parasites, including ladybird beetles, lacewings, and parasitic wasps, help control aphid populations.
- ~ Control honeydew-feeding ants, which may protect aphid colonies.
- ~ Provide proper nutrition. High levels of nitrogen in the foliage encourage aphid reproduction. Switch to a slow-release or low-nitrogen fertilizer.

Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!

Chemical Management

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

Applications must be made early and before leaves curl. Apply oils in early spring before bud swell. 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.

- ~ Hi-Yield Dormant Spray
 - active ingredient: oil/pet distillate
 - EPA reg no: 7401-428
- ~ 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 Insect Killing Soap Conc II [Organic]
 - active ingredient: potassium laurate
 - EPA reg no: 42697-60
- ~ This list may not include all products registered for this use.

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Images



~ Caption: Leaf curl plum aphids
~ Photo by: R.D. Akre



~ Caption: Leaf curl plum aphid damage
~ Photo by: K. Grey



~ Caption: Leaf curl plum aphid adult
~ Photo by: K. Grey



~ Caption: Leaf curl plum aphid nymphs
~ Photo by: K. Grey