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Pear: Aphids

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

Biology

Three aphids are commonly found infesting pear. All three species produce honeydew, a sweet, sticky material which attracts ants and that may become covered with a growth of dark sooty mold. Honeydew also causes russetting of pear fruit. The green peach aphid is pale green in color, the melon or cotton aphid is yellowish to dark green, and the bean aphid is black. The green peach and melon aphids feed on succulent shoots throughout the tree, while the bean aphid is primarily found in clusters on shoot tips. Aphid feeding causes foliage and shoots to be stunted, curled and deformed. Green apple aphids are also occasionally found on Asian pears.

Management Options

Non-Chemical Management

- ~ Encourage natural enemies including ladybird beetles, lacewings, syrphid (hover) fly larvae, and parasitic wasps. Avoid use of broad-spectrum insecticides which may kill these beneficial insects.
- ~ Hand-wipe or prune to control small, localized infestations when practical.
- ~ Wash aphids and honeydew from trees with a strong stream of water.
- ~ Control honeydew-feeding ants, which may protect aphid colonies from predators.
- ~ Provide proper nutrition. High levels of nitrogen 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

Apply superior spray oils to manage overwintering aphid eggs. Use insecticidal soap, azadirachtin, or malathion as needed during the summer. Soaps may require several applications. 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
- ~ Hi-Yield Dormant Spray
 - active ingredient: oil/pet distillate
 - EPA reg no: 7401-428
- ~ Natural Guard Brand Neem R-T-U
 - active ingredient: clarified hydrophobic extract of neem oil
 - EPA reg no: 70051-13-7401
- ~ Naturalis L
 - active ingredient: *Beauveria bassiana*
 - EPA reg no: 53871-9
- ~ 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: Green peach aphid
~ Photo by: Unknown



~ Caption: Aphid colony
~ Photo by: Unknown



~ Caption: Aphid cast skins
~ Photo by: R.S. Byther