

Apple: Aphids



Photo by: R.S. Byther

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

Biology

Three aphids are important pests of apple. Green apple aphids feed throughout the growing season on terminals, causing twisted and deformed leaves and stunted shoots. They produce honeydew, a sweet, sticky material which may become covered with sooty mold. Rosy apple aphids are purplish to pink with a powdery gray coating. They feed on leaves and buds, causing curled leaves and distorted shoot growth. They may feed on fruit, causing fruit distortion. Colonies of these honeydew-producing aphids are often found in curled leaves. Woolly apple aphids are pink to purple with a dense, woolly coating of white wax. They feed on trunks, branches, and twigs, often at wound sites, causing bark to become swollen or galled in appearance. These aphids feed on apple roots during the winter and are associated with the spread of perennial canker.

Management Options

Select Non-chemical Management Options as Your First Choice!!

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



[More information on using pesticides....](#)

Revision Date:5/6/2009

Do not apply after blossoms appear. Soaps such as Safer Insecticidal Soap Multi-Purpose Insect Killer may require several applications. Oils such as Ortho Volck Oil Spray can be used during delayed dormant period for controlling overwintering eggs of green apple aphids or rosy apple aphids. Oils are not effective against woolly apple aphids. Malathion may cause injury to McIntosh and Cortland varieties.

If you choose to use a pesticide, some examples of products that are legal in Washington are listed below.

Always read and follow all label directions.

- Bayer Advanced 12-month Tree & Shrub Insect Control Conc
- Bonide Malathion Insect Control Conc
- Concern Insect Killing Soap Conc
- Eliminator Malathion 50% Insect Spray Conc
- Garden Safe Insecticidal Soap Multi-Purpose Insect Killer Conc
- Hi-Yield 55% Malathion Spray
- Lilly Miller Superior Type Spray Oil
- Naturalis H&G
- Organica K+ Neem Insecticide-Fungicide
- Ortho Malathion 50 Plus Insect Spray Conc
- Ortho Volck Oil Spray Conc
- R-T-U Year-Round Spray Oil
- SureFire Insect Killing Soap
- This list may not include all products registered for this use.