

top 10 insect pests

TO KEEP YOUR GARDEN HEALTHY, BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THESE BAD BUGS



NAME	DESCRIPTION	DAMAGE	HOST	DISTRIBUTION
APHIDS Aphididae	Small, soft-bodied adults, colours vary from pink and green to black	Feed on sap in shoots, leaves, buds and flowers, which causes distortion and cupping; watch for honeydew secretions	Many hosts	Canada-wide
BIRCH LEAF MINER (<i>Fenusa pusilla</i>)	Flat-looking larvae; adult sawfly is small and black, about 3.7 mm long	Larvae feed inside foliage, which turns brown	Birch trees	Canada-wide
COLORADO POTATO BEETLE (<i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i>)	Reddish orange-and-black larvae; yellowish orange-and-black-striped beetle	Foliage is stripped right down to the leaf veins	Prefers potatoes, tomatoes and eggplant	Canada-wide
CRUCIFER FLEA BEETLE (<i>Phyllotreta cruciferae</i>)	Metallic blue-black adult beetle	Feeds on leaves, leaving shot-hole appearance	Cole crops and other crucifers, radishes and turnips	Canada-wide
GYPSY MOTH (<i>Lymantria dispar</i>)	Black, brown and red larvae	Defoliation of deciduous and coniferous trees	Many	Southern British Columbia, and Ontario to Eastern Canada
JAPANESE BEETLE (<i>Popillia japonica</i>)	White, C-shaped larval grubs; metallic green and copper beetle	Larvae feed on roots; adults feed on foliage and flowers	Turfgrass roots; adult beetles attack many hosts	Southern Ontario to Eastern Canada
SPIDER MITE (<i>Prostigmata</i>)	Microscopic; colours vary, from yellow or tan to green	Feeds on leaf sap; watch for speckling or bronze leaf colour	Many hosts	Canada-wide
RED LILY LEAF BEETLE (<i>Lilioceris lili</i>)	Orange-brown to black larvae covered in excrement; adult beetle is bright red	Larvae do the most damage by defoliating plants	Lilies, fritillaries, Solomon's seal, some nightshade species (<i>Solanum</i> spp.), tobacco plant (<i>Nicotiana</i> cvs.) & others; eggs laid only on lilies and fritillaries	Southern Alberta to Eastern Canada
SCALE INSECTS Many species	Soft-bodied with waxy covering in white, brown or grey	Large colonies of microscopic "crawler young" feed on sap	Many	Canada-wide
SPRUCE BUDWORM (<i>Choristoneura fumiferana</i>)	Light to dark brown larvae	Defoliation	Spruce and other conifers	Canada-wide

—Anne Marie Van Nest

To find information on environmentally friendly ways to control insect pests, see "Green Resources," page 84

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