

THRIPS



WHAT IS THE THREAT:

Thrips are slender, piercing-sucking insects with fringed wings. Adults are generally 1 mm or less in size and immature nymphs are elongate, wingless and come in a variety of colors (yellow, brown, off-white, or black). Most thrips feed by sucking out cell contents of leaves or flowers; however, some can cause leaf distortions or “galls” where they continue to feed and lay eggs. Thrips can have several generations (egg to adult) per year, allowing them to increase their population size rapidly and cause significant plant damage. Some species serve as vectors of viruses that cause plant disease.

SYMPTOMS:

Initial feeding symptoms on leaves appear as pale spots or stipples from the thrip’s piercing- sucking mouthparts. At times, black feces will be present next to these spots. This will help distinguish damage caused by thrips from damage caused by aphids, because aphids do not leave behind hard fecal matter. Certain species that cause galls, such as Myoporum and Cuban Laurel Thrips, can cause all of the new growth to appear tightly rolled or pod-like at branch tips.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT:

An IMA-jet treatment early in the lifecycle of thrips is very effective and provides season-long control. Later season infestations or higher populations that require rapid control respond well to ACE-jet™ unless growing conditions extend more than 60 days, in which case a combination of ACE-jet™ followed by a low-medium rate of IMA-jet® will provide good control.

Thrips infestations can be swift and fleeting in landscape situations and may not always require an insecticide unless feeding activity is prolonged. Begin treatment with IMA-jet or ACE-jet as soon as thrips damage is positively confirmed and consider a sequential application with Mn-jet Fe™ or PHOSPHO-jet™ to assist with tree recovery.



Larve



Thrip Damage

Photo Credit: Header An adult Thrip taken by Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Forestry Archive, Bugwood.org Larve: taken by Louis-Michel Nageleisen, Département de la Santé des Forêts, Bugwood.org Thrip damage: taken by Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org