

## Bug-Wise



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**Lesser Canna Leafroller:** This pest is already well established in many stands of cannas across the state. Newly hatched larvae feed as leaf miners, creating small frass-filled tunnels within the leaf. Older larvae live within the tightly rolled leaf whorls, feeding on the upper surface of the leaf and leaving the translucent lower epidermis intact. This creates large ‘windowpaned’ areas in leaves that are able to unroll. However, because this insect uses silken thread to bind the young, unrolled leaf, damaged leaves often are not able to unroll. Under heavy infestations there may be as many as 10 or more larvae per whorl, and their feeding can result in severe, unsightly leaf injury. There are several generations per year, with populations increasing as the season progresses.

There are a number of foliar applied insecticides that can be used to control this pest, but, because there are multiple generations, it may take several treatments, applied at intervals through the summer, to maintain control. When treating for this insect it is important to direct sprays into the unrolled whorls where the insects prefer to feed. Because cannas have slick waxy leaves, it is helpful to add a “sticker” to the insecticide spray. Some treatments that can be used to control lesser canna leafrollers are listed below.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, removing and destroying old stalks and debris in late winter can aid greatly in controlling this pest, because this is where the larvae and pupae overwinter. Selective pruning and destruction of severely infested whorls can also aid control during the growing season. In cases where an infestation has gotten out of hand and the stand has become unsightly, aggressive pruning followed by insecticide treatments applied to new growth, can help restore control and appearance. Don’t forget to destroy those infested stalks. Sealing them inside a plastic lawn bag and sending them away in the garbage is one approach.

### Some Insecticides Recommended for Control of Lesser Canna Leafroller

Active Ingredient	Brand Name (example)
Acephate	Hi-Yield Acephate Systemic Turf, Tree and Ornamental Spray
Carbaryl	Garden Tech, Sevin Concentrate Bug Killer
Cyfluthrin	Bayer Advanced Garden Multi-Insect Killer
Cyhalothrin	Spectracide, Triazicide Soil & Turf Insect Killer
Permethrin	Bonide Eight Vegetable, Fruit & Flower
Spinosad	Ferti-lome Borer, Bagworm, Leafminer & Tent Caterpillar Spray

This information is for initial planning purposes only. Always read and follow product label. Brand names listed here are examples only. Many insecticides are marketed under a number of different brand names. Other products containing the same active ingredient should provide equal performance, provided they are labeled for use in the site in question and are applied at equivalent rates.

**Azalea Lace Bug:** This is the most common insect pest of azaleas, and populations are building now. Not every planting of azaleas will be heavily infested with lace bugs, but when heavy infestations do occur, they can cause extensive, unsightly damage. Damage is caused by both the nymphs and adults, which feed on the undersides of the leaves with their piercing-sucking mouthparts, removing sap from the leaves. Initially, leaves may exhibit a ‘stippled’ appearance due to the light colored spots that appear on the upper surface of the leaves as a result of the bugs’ feeding. This stippling of the leaves is sometimes mistakenly attributed to spider mites, resulting in improper treatments. However, careful examination of the undersides of the leaves will identify the true problem.

The adults are approximately 1/8 of an inch long and have lacy white wings with dark markings. Nymphs are smaller, dark colored, and covered with spines. Cast skins of the nymphs tend to accumulate on the undersides of leaves, along with the dark-colored, shellac-like excrement. This excrement remains on the leaves for a long time, and its presence can help diagnose damage caused by lace bugs, even when the bugs themselves are not present. Plantings in sunny locations are more prone to attack than plantings in shady sites.

Lace bugs overwinter as eggs and nymphs hatch throughout the spring. Plantings can exhibit heavy infestations by May, but there are several generations per year, and populations will continue to build through the remainder of the summer.

Heavy infestations can cause the leaves to have a ‘bleached’ appearance and it can take quite a while for azaleas to fully recover from severe injury, after the bugs are controlled. Consequently, it is a good idea to routinely check plantings for the presence of lace bugs, and initiate treatments if significant numbers are detected. Some treatments that are effective against this pest are listed in the following table. Refer to product labels for specific use rates. Systemic type insecticides, such as imidacloprid, disulfoton, or acephate, are generally more effective than contact insecticides, but contact insecticides can be effective, if good spray coverage is achieved. The imidacloprid soil drench is probably one of the easiest treatments for most homeowners to use, but it is also the most costly.

There are many other species of lace bugs also occur on ornamentals and broadleaf trees. Pyracantha is sometimes heavily attacked, as is lantana, and both of these plants may occasionally require treatment. The sycamore lace bug can be found on most sycamore trees in the state, especially in late summer and fall, and occasionally reaches numbers that cause notable leaf stippling or bleaching, especially at the intersections of the mid-rib and major leaf veins. However, treatments are seldom justified on trees.

**Some Insecticides Recommended for Control of Azalea Lace Bug**

<b>Active Ingredient</b>	<b>Brand Name (example)</b>
imidacloprid	Bayer Advanced Garden, Tree & Shrub Insect Control (Drench)
disulfoton	Hi-Yield Di-Syston Systemic Insecticide (Granules)
acephate + fenbutatin-oxide	Ortho Systemic Insect Killer
cyfluthrin + imidacloprid	Bayer Advanced Garden Rose & Flower Insect Killer
cyhalothrin	Spectracide, Triazicide Soil & Turf Insect Killer
permethrin	Hi-Yield 38 Plus, Turf, Termite & Ornamental Insect Control

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