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Problem Solver

Leafhopper

Plants Affected: Roses, Lilacs, Grapes, Ivy's, Apples, Pears, & others

What it is: A bug, very irritating

What it isn't: A fungus.
A Whitefly



Nymph and Adult



Stippled Leaf Damage

Life Cycle:

Adults are white and 1/8 inch long. Leafhopper nymphs are whitish green, smaller, and wingless, and are usually found on the undersides of older leaves. They move quickly sideways as well as forward.

White apple leafhoppers over-winter as eggs in the bark of 1- to 5-year-old wood. Hatch begins at pink and may continue for 3 to 4 weeks during May and June when weather is variable. The 5 nymphal instars develop over several weeks into adults, which lay eggs in the petiole & leaf veins. Second-generation eggs begin to hatch during late July and August. The nymphs feed during August and are fully grown by late August or September. Over-wintering eggs are laid during September and early October.

Prevention and Control Techniques:

Control of the 1st generation reduces the amount of spray needed, as the foliage to cover is so much less. Mid May to Mid June is the timing.

Use at least three sprays, 5 days apart, alternating between End All, Ambush and Malathion.

As no spray will successfully get all the stages, some leafhoppers don't die. Leafhoppers in that generations can become resistant to that particular spray. Alternating to a different spray helps to reduce resistance problems, in order to get full control.