

Those Little Green Munchers (Leaf Tier and Others)

The following represents the opinions of Hillcrest resident Kenny Roynestad and is presented here to share his experience. These opinions and recommendations do not reflect the advice of the Hillcrest Improvement Association. Residents are urged to research any products for themselves before using them



Greetings to all: Kenny Roynestad here. We are relatively new to Arizona and just learning the nuances of turf grass and other landscaping. I think we are discovering challenges that most neighbors have already learned to manage. I hope my insights add to their arsenal when dealing with garden pests.

Recently our Tecomas and Bougainvillea were damaged by little green munching devils chewing through their leaves. After poking about a bit, I discovered Leaf Tier Insect worm was a prime suspect. Of course, there are other, similar critters that cause damage.

Having a puppy and toddler grandson around, I searched for non-chemical control measures which are harmless to them when dry. I used a series of organic applications that eliminated the infestation and the damage has recovered.

I focused on three products. Neem Oil, BT, and Spinosyn A / Spinosad D. All are trusted to control worms or caterpillars infesting ornamentals and vegetables.

Neem Oil was applied first.

B.T. (Bacillus thuringiensis / kurstaki) 7 days later.

Spinosyn A / Spinosad D - 7-10 days after B.T.

B.T. was reapplied after a rain.

Our plants have recovered and have become lush once again. I would welcome neighbors to share their experiences and success stories. Surely more critters are lurking about just waiting to mature into destructive foragers. ***I must note, Systemic Chemical products are readily available that some may find easier to employ.***