



Insecticide Tips

Before you treat your yard for any insect problem:

1. Identify the insect- by at least one of the following
 - a. Damage to plants
 - b. Actual insect
 - c. Eggs, web or identifying evidence
2. Select the insecticide
 - a. Horticultural oil- a wax spray that smothers eggs and soft bodied insects. Considered organic, non-toxic to kids and pets.
 - b. Insecticide Spray- READ THE LABEL. The label on an insecticide will list all of the insects it helps you to take care of. Some are plant specific. Can be harmful to other plants, kids, and pets.
 - c. Soil Drench or Systemic- Applied to the base of the plant. Acts like an “antibiotic”- It kills insects when they munch on the plant. Can translocate into fruit. READ THE LABEL.
 - d. Baits and other granulars- Intended for the insect to eat and then share with others.
3. The insecticide label-
 - a. Active ingredient- Tells you what is in it and percentage of the desired chemical (i.e. pyrethrins....5%). Makes it easier to compare different insecticides(i.e. Bug Blaster to Bug-B-Gone).
 - b. Inside the label will be the spray rates (i.e. 1 Tbl. per gallon of water).
 - c. The label also will tell you what plants to use the spray on and what insects it will kill.
4. Preparing to apply
 - a. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL
 - b. ALWAYS wear protection -Hat, gloves, closed toed shoes, long sleeves, protective glasses, and mask.
 - c. Water the plant before application.
 - d. Use a surfactant to make the spray last longer on your plant. (Spreader Sticker, superior oil or horticultural oil).
 - e. Select a sprayer based on the job and that has never been used for weed killer.
 - f. Measure with spoons that will never be used for food. Keep out of reach from children.
5. Spraying your plant
 - a. Mix and Spray. Spray the affected plant and those around it. (For most sprays coat until runoff).
 - i. Watch for wind direction (you don't want to breath the overspray)
 - ii. Bees- Spraying during pollination is not generally a good idea
 - iii. Time of day- If it is too hot the insecticide may not stick around long enough to work (try early morning or late at night).
 - b. Use all the spray- Do not just dump.
 - c. Rinse out with water and dish soap.
6. Re-application
 - a. Due to the life cycles of insects (egg, larvae, nymph, adult) re-application may be necessary. Most insecticides only work on the insect during 1 phase of their life.
 - b. Read the label for re-application (i.e. Malathion- 3-7 days depending on plant treated).