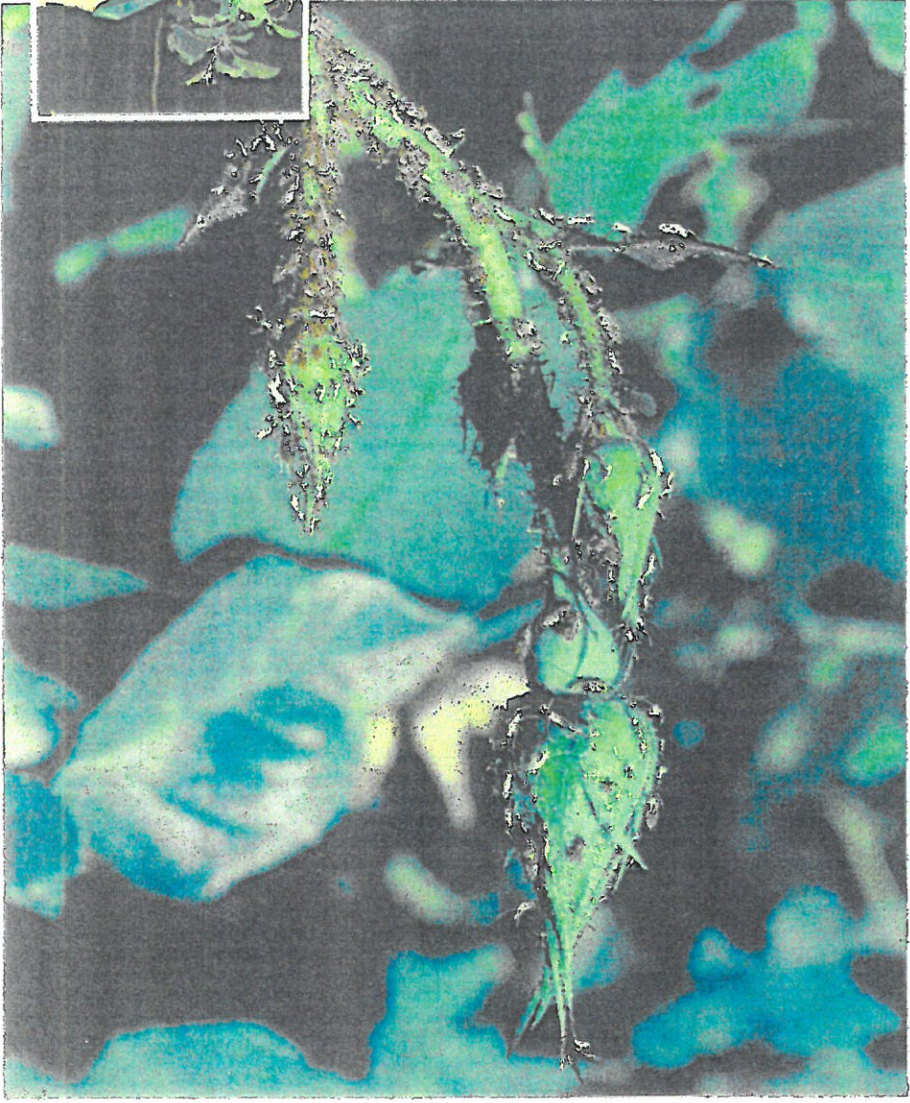


# Dealing with Aphids in the Garden



*Aphids are easy to detect, and just as easy to control with a few simple measures.*

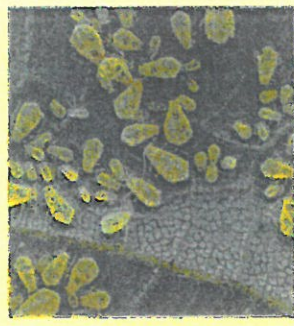
# Aphid Favourites

MAIN PREFERENCES PLANT TREATMENT

MAIN PREFERENCES	PLANT	TREATMENT
FRUIT & VEGETABLES	Apple Tree	Spray winter oil in spring; use insecticidal soap rinse in season
	Silver Beet	Inspect regularly and destroy aphids by hand or use a stream of water
FLOWERS	Cabbage	Use stream of water from hose to wash pests out of folds of leaves
	Bean	Destroy by hand, or wash leaves with insecticidal soap rinse

Ivy	(far left)	Insecticidal soap and water; enemy insects or insecticide for beds
	(left)	Contact insecticide; wash young plants with insecticidal soap
Nasturtium		Destroy by hand if you plan to eat leaves, or spray with winter oil
Margold	(far left)	Kill aphids with alcohol-soaked cotton swab, or destroy by hand
Rose	(left)	Insecticidal soap for minor attacks; contact insecticides if serious
Calendula		Destroy by hand if you intend to eat flowers, or use a contact insecticide

## Caution!



If you are treating aphid infestations on fruit trees or vegetables, avoid applying insecticides during growth or near harvest time. If you have checked your plants for pests on a regular basis, any aphid infestation will probably be mild enough to wait until after harvest to treat.

If, however, it becomes necessary to eliminate aphids, then use one of the natural methods, such as the soapy rinse. This method not only removes aphids from your plants, but will also serve as a mild repellent. Insecticidal soap can be used safely up until the day of harvest.



# Alleviating Aphids

Choose from several simple options to keep aphids off your plants.

## WHAT ARE APHIDS?

Aphids are small, soft-bodied insects about the size of rice grains. They range in colour from light green to red, although the most common type of aphid is black-bodied with a white, woolly coating.

Often named for the plants they destroy, aphids survive by sucking the juices of soft and fleshy new growth. This damages the plant's ability to properly process food.

## HOW TO DETECT

You can usually find aphids in your garden by checking newly formed leaves and buds. Distorted yellow leaves with a greyish cast are sure signs of the pests. Aphids also leave a sticky coating on leaves from an excretion called 'honeydew'.

The insects are easy to detect. Turn over a damaged leaf and you are likely to find a small cluster of aphids.



An ant eating aphid honeydew



A Currant plant damaged by a severe aphid infestation

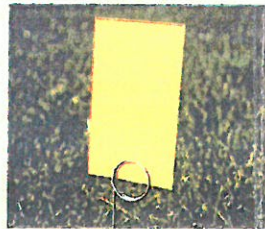
## HOW TO CONTROL

The first step to controlling aphids is to inspect new plant growth in early spring. If you find aphids, take quick measures to get rid of them.

Choose from a host of natural remedies, ranging from washing off the slow-moving pests with a stream of water, to using enemy insects to prey on them. For more serious infestations, use one of several insecticides available at garden centres.

Check labels to determine which products fight aphids and on which plants the chemicals can be used.

### Tip



Aphids are attracted to the colour yellow. Set out a yellow bowl full of soapy water, or purchase a sticky colour trap, available at most nurseries, to lead aphids away from your plants.

## FIGHTING APHIDS: FOUR NATURAL WAYS



**Destroy by hand.** Simply rub an infested leaf between your thumb and forefinger, being careful not to damage the plant's leaf.



**Use natural enemies.** Ladybirds, lacewings and other beneficial insects feed on aphids. Encourage them into the garden by avoiding chemical sprays.



**Wash them away.** Mix some insecticidal soap with some warm water to rinse away aphid populations. Buy insecticidal soap at garden centres.



**Spray dormant oil.** Found at most garden centres, winter oil should be applied in spring before plant buds swell with new growth.

## Did You Know?



**Controlling your ant population may help you control your aphid population.** Ants rub the bellies of the smaller insects, causing them to excrete honeydew, which the ants eat. If you find ants herding aphids in your garden, set out ant traps. These traps are available at garden centres, nurseries and hardware stores. You should also destroy any anthills that you find.

## FIGHTING APHIDS: INSECTICIDES

There are two types of chemical insecticides for aphid control. Systemic insecticides are usually applied in early spring and work inside the plant. When aphids suck out plant sap, they quickly die from ingesting the insecticide. Contact insecticides are directly applied to the pests, killing them on contact.

As an alternative, you can use a natural insecticide, such as

Pyrethrum, which is made from the groundflowers of a species of Chrysanthemum. Rotenone is another insecticide made from plants and is considered highly effective against aphids. Both of these are available at nurseries and garden centres.

No matter which form of insecticide you choose, follow the directions closely for safe and effective use.

