

and in time the leaves have a finely stippled appearance.

Control: The most effective materials for controlling mites are miticides developed especially for these pests. In general, these materials including Kelthane, Tedion, and Chlorobenzilate, are among the least toxic pesticides to persons handling them. A combination spray containing malathion plus oil emulsion as discussed above for scales will control spider mites. Metasystox-R, dimethoate (Cygon or De-Fend) and Orthene provide some control of mites, especially when applied before populations become heavy.

One of the greatest aids in effective mite control is to commence treatments before the mite populations build to a large size. Learn to recognize the mites and their injury. Use a magnifying glass if necessary, and examine your plants frequently. Treat promptly when an infestation appears. Under Florida conditions, mites are able to complete their life cycles in 7 to 10 days. Therefore it is important to apply a second spray application in 5 to 6 days.

One of the older control methods used by home gardeners is syringing the underside of the leaves with a forceful spray of water. This dislodges many mites and regular treatments may succeed in keeping the population below a damaging level, but generally is not satisfactory. Summer oil emulsion spray for use on foliage is another old remedy that is still effective, though thorough coverage is especially important. See cautions on use of oil sprays under Scales.

Leafminers

Leafminers are the larvae of flies or moths that mine between the leaf surfaces. The two most common kinds, the serpentine and the blotch leafminers, are so-named because of the shape of their mines in the leaves.

Control: Leaf mining pests are difficult to control because they are protected from insecticides by the leaf surfaces. Dimethoate (Cygon or De-Fend) and Orthene have been the most effective materials because of their systemic action. Diazinon also offers some control. Apply a second application in 7 to 10 days.

Borers

There are many kinds of borers, but most are the larvae of beetles or moths. They can be placed

into three main types: (1) the pine bark beetles which bore in the inner bark and feed on the cambium; (2) borers which burrow in small limbs or twigs; and (3) borers which burrow deep into the trunk. Usually sawdust-like borings are noticed around the entrance holes and collect in bark crevices. Sap may flow from holes and from small "pitch tubes."

In most cases, the borers are not the primary cause of trouble to trees, but rather **these insects attack trees first weakened by something else**. A tree does not have to be badly weakened to make it susceptible to attack by borers. Injury or stress to the tree caused by drought, salt water intrusion, soil added or removed above the roots, soil compaction, digging house foundations, septic tanks, underground utilities, lightning, wind, wounds to the trunk or roots caused by vehicles or machinery, may mark the beginning of insect problems. Also, the setback that trees receive in transplanting increases the possibility that borers may attack them.

Control: Preventing borer attacks by keeping the tree or plant healthy is the best control. Follow all approved cultural and maintenance practices, especially regarding susceptible species such as pines, seagrapes, dogwoods and oaks. If evidence of borers are noticed apply lindane as directed on container label for control.

Other Pests

Sooty Mold

Sooty mold is a black fungus that grows in the excretion of aphids, mealybugs, many soft scales, and particularly of immature whiteflies. This fungus detracts from the beauty of ornamental plants, but does not cause as much injury as most people believe. Controlling the above pests early will prevent or reduce the problem of sooty mold.

Ants

Ants are fond of "honeydew" excreted by aphids, mealybugs and certain scales, and they may protect and move these pests around from plant to plant. They are social insects that live in colonies; therefore, controls should be directed to the colonies or nests.

Control: Diazinon, Dursban or Sevin are effective.