



# WELCOME TO KINGS ONLINE PLANT DOCTOR

## TOMATO PSYLLIDS

*Bactericera cockerelli*

Also known as Potato Psyllid, it's a pest from North America and was first found in New Zealand in 2006. Mainly affects potato and tomato. Can also affect other members of the solanaceae family (peppers, egg plants, and tamarillos) and kumara.

Psyllids are sap suckers, they feed by inserting stylets into the plant and sucking out the sugary sap. They have 3 life stages: egg, nymph, and adult. When feeding Nymphs and possibly adults inject a toxin which causes discolouration to occur on the foliage, so called 'psyllid yellowing' and 'purple top', the leaf edges upturn and start to yellow or go purple.

On tomatoes, psyllids can cause numerous poor quality fruit to form, or fruit can be prevented from forming.

On potatoes psyllid feeding can cause a reduction of yields, poor quality tubers, and/or reduce the number of secondary tubers forming. The quality of the tubers can also be affected, once cut or fried tubers can show Zebra chip symptoms, and tubers will often taste unpleasantly earthy.

### PREVENTION

Remove weeds and crops likely to shelter psyllids over winter. Especially look out for weeds such as tobacco weed, apple of sodom, poroporo and nightshades.

Encourage natural predators into your garden eco-system by planting flowers like Alyssum, Borage, Hyssop, Lavender and Nepetas.

### NATURAL TREATMENT

Spray with [BioNeem](#), thoroughly drenching the plant. This helps repel pests and stop them feeding or laying eggs on you crops.

### OTHER TREATMENT

Spray with [Success Ultra](#), wetting both sides of the leaves and stems thoroughly. Repeat at 7 day intervals if the psyllid remains active in your garden.

When using sprays and chemicals always read the label and follow instructions carefully. Spray in the evening to avoid harming beneficial insects.



## TOMATO PSYLLIDS PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS

Shop the Kings online store for all your gardening needs



### GROVENTIVE GARDEN

A two-way systemic insecticide, safe for bees and most beneficial insects, providing control of sucking insects including harder to control species. Approved for use on roses, pot plants, hedging, flowers and ornamentals.



### BIONEEM INSECTICIDE

BioNeem is a broad spectrum insecticide derived from the Neem tree, for the control aphids, thrips and other insect pests.



*Everything you need!*

FOR MORE ADVICE  
CONTACT US

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