WHITEFLY

There are 2 main species present in New Zealand, Greenhouse Whitefly (Trialeurodes vaporariorum) and Citrus Whitefly (Orchamoplatus citri).

Whiteflies are small white sap sucking insects 1-2mm in length that resemble miniature moths with a wingspan of around 3mm. Both the nymphs and the adult insects are sapsuckers. Their feeding can harm the vigour of the plant, and help spread disease. As they feed they excrete a sugary substance (honeydew) and if left can allow sooty mould to grow on the leaves.

During warmer periods they can breed prolifically. The female whiteflies lay their eggs on the underside of a plants upper leaves. After 4-12 days the eggs hatch into crawling, sap-sucking nymphs.

PREVENTION

Nicotiana (an attractive flower) is believed to attract whitefly and can be grown as a sacrificial plant or to serve as an early warning of their presence.

Various beneficial predatory insects will prey on whitefly and can help control numbers. To help attract beneficial predator insects grow a wide array of flowering plants including: alyssum, borage, hyssop, lavender, will help attract them. For more ideas click here.

TREATMENT

Spray with Mavrik. Repeat spraying twice in one week. Follow up spraying may be required in some circumstances.

Where possible, spray in the evening to avoid affecting beneficial insects.

NATURAL OPTION

Spray affected plants with Bugtrol, a highly effective organic insecticide. Spray the plant thoroughly, drenching the tops and bottoms all the leaves, twice in one week. If you spray this effectively dealing with whitefly should be easier as the eggs are smothered by the oil contained in this spray.

Follow up spraying may be required in some circumstances.

Where possible, spray in the evening to avoid affecting beneficial insects.

WHITEFLY PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS

Shop the Kings online store for all your gardening needs

AQUATICUS BUGTROL CONCENTRATE

An effective, organic, broad spectrum insecticide that can be used to control a broad range of insects. Perfect for use on veggie plants, fruit trees and ornamental plants.

YATES MAVRIK INSECT & MITE SPRAY

Controls a broad range of insect and mite pests, yet will not interfere with honey bees once the spray has dried. As a result Mavrik is excellent for use on flowering plants.