Thrips Treatment Guide

How to Get Rid of Thrips

By DoMyOwn staff

OVERVIEW

Getting Rid of Thrips on Your Plants



Once you've identified the thrips on your property as pests, we have some recommended methods for getting rid of these tiny sucking insects. Thrips can be an annoyance, but there are effective methods of treatment. Check out this page for our recommended methods and products for thrips control.

Video Instructions



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWU1v3MM4zY

METHOD 1 Encourage Natural Predators

Introducing beneficial insects to your residential lawn or garden area can be an easy and nature-friendly way to eliminate a thrips infestation on your property.

The mite varieties Amblyseius Cucumeris and Amblyseius swirskii are commonly introduced as predators of thrips in a lawn or garden setting. These tiny, tan-colored mites feed on immature thrips and can be used to break the life cycle of a thrips infestation.

If you choose to apply an insecticide in addition to using natural predators, be sure the insecticides are not labeled to harm these beneficial insects.

Products needed for Method 1



Koppert Thripex-V (Neoseiulus cucumeris) 1000 ml
$90.93

METHOD 2 Treat with a Foliar Spray Insecticide



Thrips can be controlled by smothering with horticultural oil sprays. This type of treatment requires complete coverage of the host plant to be fully effective. Multiple applications of a horticultural oil treatment are often required to rid your plant of every stage of thrips that may be hiding. You will typically mix a small quantity of horticultural oil with water and apply with a sprayer.

Synthetic insecticide foliar sprays like Talstar P are another method of control for thrips in situations where oil-based products may not be the right fit.

A foliar application will be the only recommended plan for treating edible plants. Make sure that any insecticide you select for use is labeled for the specific edible plants on your property. Some options are included in the selection below.

Always read the label of the product to confirm that it is safe to use on the host plant you're treating, as some plants are more sensitive to these oils than others. You should also consider the temperature when applying horticultural oils to stop pests. These products are recommended for plants growing in temperatures under 85 degrees Fahrenheit, and out of full sunlight. High temperatures and harsh sunlight can react with horticultural oils to cause plant injury. Applying these products in the morning or evening also helps to avoid harming local beneficial insects, which will be less active during those times.

PRO TIP

Thrips are a frequently found pest in greenhouses and nurseries. There are products specially labeled for these locations. Try a foliar application of an insecticide like Avid for greenhouse thrips control.

Neem oil is a similar type of product that offers additional benefits including hormonal control of some insects, able to halt the growth cycle and prevent them from reaching adulthood. Consult the product label or ask our experts if you have questions about horticultural oil products and which is best for your plants.

Products needed for Method 2



Monterey Horticultural Oil - Quart
$31.76
★★★★★ (1)

METHOD 3 Apply an Insecticide Systemic Root Drench

Video Instructions



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liNykEnhuxg

Once you've confirmed the type of thrips that are attacking the plants on your property, applying a systemic insecticide drench with a product using imidacloprid or dinotefuran will get the best results. These active ingredients have a high level of water solubility and are more easily transported to the leaves and flower petals that thrips often favor for feeding. To learn more about how to apply insecticides as a systemic root drench, view the video here and give our experts a call if you have any further questions.

PRO TIP

For heavy thrips infestations, try applying a foliar spray application (oil or otherwise) for quicker pest reduction in addition to a systemic drench application for ongoing prevention--the systemic application will take longer to show results, but will pay off in lasting effects.

Products needed for Method 3



Zylam Liquid Systemic Insecticide
$196.40
★★★★★ (2)

METHOD 4 Physical Removal with Alcohol and Water



To get a head start on other recommended treatment methods, you can remove existing thrips with a sponge or cotton soaked with a mixture of 1 part rubbing alcohol in 7 parts water. Contact with the alcohol solution will kill thrips that are present on the plant surface at the time, and they can be easily wiped off by hand. Repeat treatments will probably be needed to remove other thrips that may have been missed or hiding from the first treatment. Consider separating any infested plants by moving them outdoors or into a garage if these places have a suitable climate for the plants to survive.

If you have questions about any of these methods or need help deciding on the best way to get rid of thrips around your home or garden, give us a call at 866-581-7378 for expert answers.