

# Treating Insect Problems



**ROGER S. BOLGER**  
**HORTICULTURALIST**  
 WWW.ROGERBOLGER.COM

No treatment will be effective unless the insect pest is positively identified and the treatment is applied when the pest is susceptible.

Always consult the label for specific information on use, personal protective equipment, environmental precautions, storage and disposal before using insecticides. The purpose of the label is to provide clear directions to allow maximum product benefit while minimizing risks to human health, target plants and the environment. The label is the law. Apply pesticides at your own risk.

Treatments are listed in my order of preference, with treatments considered organic in italics. My preferences are based on a combination of my experience of effectiveness, ease of application, and expense. I have received no compensation for recommending any of these products, and no endorsement is implied.

Insect Pest	Recommended Treatments
Beetle larvae and adults Sawfly larvae	Permethrin, <i>neem oil</i> , malathion, Sevin, <i>pyrethrins</i> , acephate, imidacloprid, <i>horticultural oil</i>
Caterpillars, webworms, leaf rollers, cutworms	<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> , permethrin, Sevin, <i>physical removal</i> , acephate, malathion, pyrethrins, <i>insecticidal soap</i>
Grasshoppers, tree crickets, etc.	Permethrin, <i>insecticidal soap</i>
Snails and slugs	Iron phosphide snail & slug bait, <i>diatomaceous earth</i>
Leafhoppers, aphids, whiteflies, lacebugs, thrips, plant bugs, leafminers, spittlebugs	<i>Insecticidal soap</i> , <i>neem oil</i> , <i>horticultural oil</i> , imidacloprid, acephate, Di-syston, resmethrin, permethrin, Sevin, pyrethrins, malathion
Spider mites	Fenbutatin-oxide, <i>neem oil</i> , Di-Syston, <i>insecticidal soap</i> , <i>horticultural oil</i>
Psyllids	Di-syston, acephate, imidacloprid
Eriophyid mites	Sevin, permethrin
Gall makers	<i>No control</i> , imidacloprid, permethrin, Sevin
Borers	Imidacloprid, permethrin
Scale	Imidacloprid, acephate, Di-syston, <i>horticultural oil</i> , <i>insecticidal soap</i> , malathion
Adelgids	Imidacloprid, <i>horticultural oil</i> , Sevin
Weevils	Permethrin, imidacloprid
Ants, spiders, earwigs, centipedes, roaches, crickets, silverfish, carpet beetles	Bifenthrin, deltamethrin, permethrin, ant baits
Ground bees, carpenter bees, wasps	Sevin dust, permethrin dust
Mosquitoes	<i>Mosquito dunks</i> , permethrin
Fleas	Nylar, <i>diatomaceous earth</i> , Sevin, permethrin