

Least Wanted Garden Bugs

Aphids



Damage: Aphids suck sap from plants, resulting in deformed leaves and flowers. Plants weakened by aphids may be more susceptible to disease. Ants “farm” aphids for their honeydew. Finding ants on plants is an early clue you may have aphids.

Controls: A strong spray of water will knock aphids off the host plant. Soap and water spray may also be used (may need up to 6 applications, every 5 days). Encourage predators, such as ladybugs.

Learn more: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/06-081.htm>

Japanese Beetle

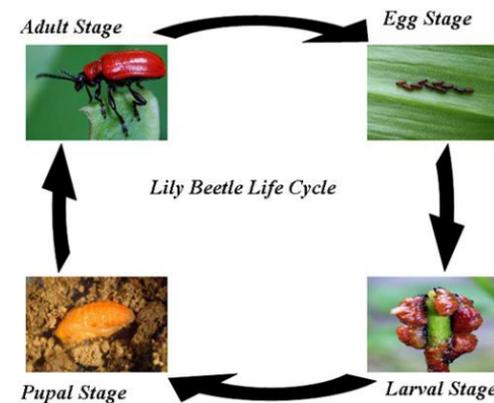
Damage: Adults appear mid-July and skeletonize leaves, especially those of the rose family. Larvae feed on grass roots and may damage turf.

Controls: Hand pick beetles in cool early morning when they move slowly, and squish or drop in pail of soapy water to drown. Susceptible plants can be sprayed with Neem oil.



Learn more: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/92-105.htm>

Red Lily Beetle



Damage: Adults appear as early as April and feed on lily leaves. Larvae can devastate a lily in a single day. Asiatic and Japanese lilies are most susceptible but fritillaries (a member of the lily family) will also be affected.

Controls: Twice daily inspection (dawn and dusk), hand-pick and squish, or drown in soapy water. Spray susceptible plants with Neem oil. Mulching with coffee grounds makes soil less attractive to pupae.

Learn more: <http://www.saskpower.com/shandgreenhouse/724.htm>

Earwigs



Damage: Everyone’s least favorite garden pest feeds at night, leaving irregular holes in tender new leaves and flower petals. If you don’t see the silvery trail of slugs, then earwigs are the most likely culprit. In the evening, place crumpled sheets of newspaper or a length of old garden hose near damaged plants. Next morning, check for earwigs and squish or drop in bucket of soapy water.

Controls: Earwigs like a nice, damp, dark place to nest. Clean up around wood piles, and remove plant debris to reduce earwig habitat. Make or



purchase earwig traps, bait with soy sauce and oil, and empty each morning. Earwigs are also beneficial because they eat aphids, slugs and insect larvae.

Learn more:

http://www.ottawa.ca/residents/healthy_lawns/lawns/alternatives/earwigs_en.html