

THRIPS: Facts and Notes | Control | Prevention

Facts and Notes

Thrips (*Thysanoptera: Thripidae*) are one of the more troublesome pests for gardeners because they are hard to spot and the damage they cause often looks more like a nutritional or disease problem, not insect damage. Thrips can affect hundreds of different ornamental and edible plants, and they are extremely resistant to eradication. Thrips are tiny, slender-bodied insects usually about 1/25 inch in length, although some species can be as much as 1/2 inch. They are piercing, sucking insects that inflict damage by feeding on the juices of plants.

Types of Thrips Commonly Found in KAUST



Desmothrips
australis



Dichromothrips
smithi



Lichanothrips
pastinus



Stomatothrips
angustipennis



Dorythrips
wallacei

Pest Control procedures in managing pests

1. Thrips are microscopic and hard to spot until they infest. Shake a plant with white paper under its blossoms or foliage to identify Thrips. Some Thrips will fall off, leaving their dark bodies on the white paper. A 10–15-power magnifying scope will help identify the pest.
2. Implement control following the applicable IPM principles, starting with:
 - **Cultural Control-** Clean the garden. Each plant needs clean containers, trays, and matting. Disinfesting soil between cut plants may reduce Thrips pupae survival. Sticky or roller traps catch adult Thrips between wounded and new plants.
 - **Mechanical Control-** Remove badly infested plants and disposed properly.
 - **Chemical Control-** If other methods fail, apply approved insecticides in a highly diluted mixture to the affected area as a spot treatment in accordance with the instructions provided by the manufacturer. Use Sumithion 50 EC - Fenirothion 50% w/v (WHO Class: III, Local Reg.: 118-50-889) or Cythrin 10 EC - Cypermethrin 10% (WHO Class: II, Local Reg.: 72000-1065).
3. Monitor the plants condition after the treatment. Keep record for future evaluation.

What you can do Thrips prevention at home

- Clean your garden. Remove all clutter from the backyard, where pests can hide and breed.
- Spraying Thrips away with cold water works. Wash afflicted leaves' undersides with a fine hose nozzle spray. Repeat three times, preferably over three days.
- Cooperate with the service provider during treatment activities by keeping yourself and your pets in a safe place.