

WHITEFLIES: Facts and Notes | Control | Prevention

Facts and Notes

Whiteflies damage plants by tapping into the phloem, or carbohydrate-containing plant juices. The plants lose sap and react to the whiteflies' saliva. As whiteflies congregate in large numbers, they overwhelm plants quickly. It can get so bad that when you tap a leaf, a swarm of whiteflies will go airborne before settling under the leaf. They also excrete honeydew, which promotes sooty mold growth and can ruin plants with its stickiness.

Whiteflies are typically found on the underside of plant leaves, and have a large list of hosts. Some ornamental plants within the landscape are susceptible to silverleaf whitefly infestations.

Types of White Flies Commonly Found in KAUST



Silverleaf
Whitefly



Greenhouse
Whitefly



Bandedwinged
Whitefly



Spiraling Whitefly

Pest Control procedures in managing pests

1. Check the plants for signs of infestation. Adult whiteflies can be found by shaking the foliage. To locate immature nymphs inspect the leaf in more detail. Here are whiteflies control methods for protecting plants.
2. IPM-guided essential control mainly:
 - **Cultural Control** - While doing monitoring checks, remove leaves with eggs on them and destroy them. Plus, remove and destroy any heavily infested plants if possible. Use a strong jet of water to wash the plants, which can help dislodge pests in the feeding stages as well as eggs.
 - **Mechanical Control** - When whiteflies appear, trim and discard infested branches and foliage.
 - **Chemical Control** - If other methods fail, administer insecticides in a highly diluted mixture to the affected area in accordance with the instructions provided by the manufacturer, such as Abamectin 18EC (*Abamectin 1.8EC*)
3. Monitor the plants condition after the treatment. It is recommended to keep record for future evaluation.

What you can do to prevent White Flies in your garden

- Maintain good sanitary conditions, remove any clutters and debris from your backyards and gardens.
- Cooperate with the service provider during treatment activities by keeping yourself and your pets in a safe place.
- Report sightings or request assistance by contacting the Horticulture and Pest Control Department or via C&C Call Center by calling 959 from any landline.