

Home Grounds Fact Sheet

Lacebug



There are several species of lacebugs that cause damage to ornamental trees and shrubs. These small insects feed on the underside of the leaves by inserting their needle-like mouth parts into the tissue and withdrawing the cell contents.

Leaves show stippling on the upper surface, gradually turn yellow and defoliation may result. Other signs of lacebugs are spiny cast skins on the undersides of the leaves and varnish-like deposits that are smeared drops of excreta. These signs may remain after the insects are gone.

Lacebugs of the evergreen group, genus *Stephanitis*, over-winter in the egg stage or in leaves of broadleaved evergreens. Both the adults and nymphs cause damage. They can be killed in June between 448-618 GDD when *Kalmia latifolia* (Mountain-laurel) blooms and again between 802-1029 GDD.

Common name	Hosts
Evergreen group	
● Andromeda Lacebug	Andromeda
● Rhododendron, Laurel Lacebug	Rhododendron, Laurel, Azalea

Do not plant andromeda (*Pieris japonica*) in full sun. It belongs in shade or partial shade. Properly sited plants are much less susceptible to lacebug.

Lacebugs of the genus *Corythura* attacking deciduous plants over-winter as adults or eggs in protected places, e.g. under loose bark, tree crotches and soil litter. Adults and nymphs hatched from over-wintering eggs become active when the foliage is fully developed.

They are active in mid May at 239-363 GDD when *Cercis canadensis* (Redbud) blooms and again in mid July at 1266-1544 GDD, when *Abelia* blooms.

Common name	Hosts
Deciduous group	
● Alder Lacebug	Alder, Hazel, Elm, Birch
● Buckeye Lacebug	Buckeye sp.
● Cherry Lacebug	Wild Cherry
● Elm Lacebug	American Elm (only)
● Hawthorn Lacebug	Hawthorn, Quince
● Oak Lacebug	Oaks
● Sycamore Lacebug	Sycamore, Ash, Hickory, Mulberry
● Walnut Lacebug	Butternut, Black Walnut, Linden
● Willow Lacebug	Willow
● Willow and Poplar Lacebug	Beech, Hop Hornbeam, Poplar, Maple, Mountain Ash

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Management Options

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Considerations

IPM is a common sense approach to pest control and plant care. It employs a number of measures to prevent, control or reduce plant problems. These include using resistant plant varieties, proper plant selection and placement, good aftercare and biological and/or mechanical controls. As a last resort, after all other remedies have been explored, a pesticide* that is least toxic to people and natural predators, can be considered. Prior to using any pesticides, plants should always be monitored for the degree of infestation and a sensible control measure considered.

* A pesticide is a substance that kills, or attempts to kill, a particular pest, e.g. **insecticide**, **fungicide**, **herbicide**, etc.

Chemical pesticides may be available. If you choose to use a chemical pesticide, contact your local Cooperative Extension office for specific recommendations.

Control

The timing for control differs for each genus of lacebug, don't waste time and money by spraying at the wrong time. **For more information on Growing Degree Days (GDD), request leaflet E-1-0.**

For the evergreen group spray early and late June, 448-618 and 809-1029 GDD.

For the deciduous group spray in mid-May at 239-363 GDD and again in mid-July at 1266-1544 GDD. If mites are present, a miticide should also be used. These materials must be applied to the underside of foliage where the bugs are active.

Do not use a hose-end type sprayer.

Properly diluted compressed air hand applicators produce better results. Hose-end sprayers do not dissolve, mix or apply pesticides accurately or evenly. The changing rates of water pressure, different hose diameters and water temperature are variables that prevent accurate mixing and delivery. A hand pump or powered tank sprayer, where the pesticide is pre-mixed to the proper dilution, allows for the application of a known mixture as per label instructions.



**WHENEVER YOU USE A PESTICIDE,
ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND FOLLOW
THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**

"This publication contains pesticide recommendations. Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly and human errors are still possible. Some materials mentioned may no longer be available, and some uses may no longer be legal. All pesticides distributed, sold or applied in New York State must be registered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Questions concerning the legality and/or registration status for pesticide use in New York State should be directed to the appropriate Cornell Cooperative Extension specialist or your regional DEC office (631) 444-0341. Read the label before applying any pesticide. Cornell Cooperative Extension and its employees assume no liability for the effectiveness or results of any chemicals for pesticide usage. No endorsement of products is made or implied."