

Problem: Whiteflies



Plants Affected: Too numerous to mention but includes vegetables, ornamental plants and houseplants.

Description: Whiteflies are small (about 1/16-inch long), white flying insects that resemble moths. Wings are held over the body like a pup tent and are covered with a white, waxy substance.

Recommendations: Whiteflies do not overwinter well in Kansas but can build up later in the season due to migration from more southern climates, buildup of local populations and introductions from transplants. If you wish to control whitefly on vegetables, try an insecticidal soap or a neem based product. These products are much more effective if used before the population builds up.

There are more options on ornamental plants including malathion, insecticidal soap, neem based products, pyrethrin, and deltamethrin (Ortho Rose and Flower Insect Killer). Pay special attention to houseplants that have spent the summer outside. Check carefully for whiteflies before bringing inside for the winter. If whiteflies are present, use a product labeled for houseplants. All the products listed above but malathion are labeled for houseplant use.

References:

1. [Managing Whiteflies on Indoor and Outdoor Plants](#), University of Missouri Extension, G7275
2. [Whiteflies in Gardens](#), University of Kentucky, College of Ag, Entfact-303

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