

Aphid Control on Easter Lilies

Allen C. Botacchi
Cooperative Extension Educator
Commercial Horticulture

The aphid is the most frequently encountered pest of Easter Lilies. Some aphid species cause plant injury by their feeding, others transmit one or more virus diseases from infected to healthy lily plants. Aphids enter through vents or louvers, or are brought into the greenhouse on other plants. Both winged and wingless forms will be present in large populations.

Aphids known to infest Easter lilies include:

1. **Melon aphid**, which transmits lily rosette virus and lily symptomless virus and ultimately necrotic fleck disease.
2. **Green peach aphid**, which transmits the lily mottle and cucumber mosaic viruses and ultimately the fleck diseases.
3. **Foxglove aphid** which causes strong yellow spotting and curling of young leaves as they expand. Although the stunting and distortion resembles lily rosette and mottle mosaic symptoms, it does not transmit either virus. When feeding on flower buds, the thickened, deformed buds open imperfectly and sometimes split.
4. **Crescent-marked lily aphid** which causes yellow spotting on young Easter lily foliage that is not as severe as that caused by the foxglove aphid.
5. **Bean aphid** which is black and migrates from other crops in the spring.
6. **Potato aphid** which transmits mottle viruses, cucumber mosaic virus, and causes split flower buds.

Monitor the 1992 Easter Lily crop carefully for aphids starting at emergence (mid-January) until flowering.

Materials suggested for aphid control include:

Fumigation with Dibrom, Vapona or Dithio or PT 1700 (Methiocarb).

Sprays of Dursban 50 WP, Talstar, Decathlon 20 WP Insecticidal soap, Ultrafine oil, Thiodan or Malathion.

Granular application of Oxamyl 10G.

Remember to read and heed all pesticide label information completely.

References

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