

Lily Aphid Control

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Since this is the time when most of you will be thinking about the money you are going to make on lilies it is also a good time to think of the ways lilies can lose your money. One sure way to lose money is to forget about lily aphid control. Here's how to control them.

One of the most effective controls of lily aphids is accomplished by the use of demeton (Systox). To effectively use demeton (Systox) for control of lily aphids apply it when the lilies are about six inches high in a solution consisting of one pint of 23% demeton (Systox) emulsifiable solution in 100 gallons of water. Apply this solution as you would normally apply water for watering by filling each pot. It need be done only once and satisfactory control of aphids can be accomplished until the crop is sold.

Be sure that you leave 1 to 1½ inches between the pot

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surface and the soil surface when potting your lilies, this will insure that the lilies receive sufficient demeton (Systox) to do the job of control.

If you prefer not to use demeton (Systox), adequate aphid control can be obtained with either sulfotepp (dithio) smokes, lindane sprays or aerosols or malathion sprays and aerosols. In using sprays be sure you are wetting the developing tips because that's where the aphids are. When using aerosols or smokes be sure you have done all you can to prevent drafts or leaks.

Regardless of how you choose to control aphids keep your eyes on the developing plants. If several continue to harbor aphids, treat them individually until the aphids are gone. Some growers carry a squirting type oil can full of malathion spray and thus individual treatment of the tips can be accomplished.

Remember that every chemical is poisonous if used carelessly. Read the label and do what it says. Be certain to use protective clothing and an appropriate respirator. If in doubt on what to do—call your county agent.
