

Step 1

What's With My Plant?

Sample local pests

Aphids



Step 2

Monitor

Make regular inspections / counts

Found on undersides of leaves and on tender shoots and tips of branches.

Step 3

Tolerance Level

Decide how many are tolerated

Presence is not always a problem.

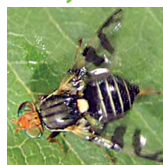
Leafrollers



Green caterpillars that are usually noticed once rolled inside leaves. Watch for them on known host plants prior to leaf rolling.

Small infestations are not usually a risk to ornamental plant health.

Cherry Fruit Flies



Larvae feed on fruit and overwinter as pupae in soil.

Probably little tolerance since most people don't like little worms in their cherries.

Tent Caterpillars & Fall Webworms



Hairy caterpillars that spin silk webbing in branches and feed on leaves.

Small infestations are not a risk to overall plant health.

Tomato Hornworms



Large green caterpillars that consume leaves and sometimes fruit.

Probably little tolerance as caterpillar feeding can kill young plants.

Powdery Mildew



Fungal disease that produces white to grayish powdery growth on a wide variety of plants. Keep eye out for first signs – small white powdery spots on leaves.

Weakens plants but doesn't always kill them.

Step 4

Cultural Action

Anything that produces healthy plants and prevents pest problems

- Encourage flora and fauna diversity to keep infestations in check.
- Plant resistant varieties of plants.
- Try these 'companion planting' techniques:
 - Use host plants like Nasturtiums to attract predatory insects.
 - Use host plants as traps to distract or draw pests away. (e.g. Rose enthusiasts use Geraniums)
 - Use repellent plants like Marigolds to drive pests away
- Water adequately.
- Don't over fertilize. Too much fertilizer promotes succulent weak growth that attracts some pests.

Physical and Mechanical Action

- Wash off with a strong stream of water
- Scrape egg masses from branches in winter
- Handpick caterpillars weekly
- Hang sticky traps
- Pick up and destroy fallen fruit

Biologicals & Lower-risk Control Products*

- Attract predators
- Spray dormant oil to kill overwintering eggs
- Try orange zest or garlic spray
- Attract native parasitic wasps
- Try a garlic spray
- Apply Btk* to larvae before leaves roll
- Attract natural predators like ground beetles

Higher-risk Chemical Control Products

Residents must abide by any relevant regulations or restrictions.

Step 5

Evaluate

Keeping notes is helpful in determining effectiveness of methods.

* Btk - Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki

*Keep in mind lower-risk products may adversely affect more than what you target. Always wear recommended personal protective equipment.