

## HOW TO CONTROL APHIDS



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The long-awaited nice weather has returned to Myrtle Trace!!

Along with this welcome event, there is also a little critter known as the **aphid** (or plant louse). Even though this may be a very tiny insect, the problems that it causes can be most serious. With their hypodermic-like mouthparts, they withdraw the vital liquid contents of the plants upon which they feed, thereby deforming or killing the individual plants cells. Since these insects occur in very high numbers, it does not take very long before an individual plant can be seriously injured. Some of the preferred host plants include many of those which grow here in Myrtle trace – roses, crape myrtles, maples, daylilies, and many annual flowering plants. On crape myrtles, they are especially bothersome since their droppings contain high levels of nutrients which encourage infestations of the Sooty Mold fungus. This particular problem can easily be controlled by killing the aphids before they reach high population levels. The most common means of control is to spray or dust the affected plants (according to label instructions) with insecticidal soap, NEEM, or Sevin (dust or spray). These same products may be safely used on many other plants affected by aphids, so roll up your sleeves and get rid of the aphids before they damage your plants.

“A rose by any other name would still attract aphids.” Author Unknown

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