



Aphids

Trees and Shrubs



Photo, top right: The honeydew that aphids excrete as waste is often colonized by fungi such as sooty mold. **Above:** Aphid populations can grow quickly, and can cause serious injury to some types of plants in high populations. **Below, top:** Aphid damage on elm leaves can cause curling and areas of brown necrotic tissue. **Bottom:** On conifers, aphid symptoms include distorted growth on the succulent tips of newly formed branches. (E. Bradford Walker, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Bugwood.org)



What are Aphids?

Aphids are one of the most common insects found on trees and shrubs. There are over 400 species that feed on numerous hosts. Aphids use their piercing, sucking mouthparts to extract sap from the tender, new growth of plants. While aphid feeding does not look good, it usually doesn't cause serious damage to established plants. The exception is on conifers, such as spruce or pines, where they can kill large numbers of needles. Aphids excrete a sticky substance called honeydew (a nice name for aphid poo) that can be a nuisance; it gets all over sidewalks, vehicles, and other structures.



Biology

- Aphids overwinter as eggs on hosts bark or needles.
- In spring, the eggs hatch and aphids migrate into summer hosts.
- Aphids reproduce quickly and can have many generations per year.
- In late summer, eggs are laid again.

Susceptible Trees

Aphids can be found on virtually any tree or shrub.

Signs and Symptoms

- Curled discolored leaves.
- Plant sap excreted as honeydew, making the plant sticky.
- A black fungus called sooty mold may be growing on the honeydew.
- Spots of sap on cars, sidewalks, houses, etc.



DIY Shopping List

Option 1:

**Application Type – Soil drench,
Soil injection**

DIY Product/Equipment Needed

- Xytect™**
- Measuring or diameter tape
- Gloves
- Soil Drench:* Bucket or watering can
- Soil Injection:* HTI Soil Injection Kit



Option 2:

Application Type – Foliar Spray

DIY Product/Equipment Needed

- Tengard®**
- Hand pump sprayer with wand
- Gloves/Safety glasses



A soil applied systemic insecticide such as **Xytect™** is very effective and work from the inside of the plant.

Xytect™ is applied to the soil at the base of the tree and are taken up by the root system. A contact insecticide, such as **Tengard®**, can be sprayed and is very effective as long as even coverage of the foliage is achieved.

Treatment Strategies

Using Xytect™

Xytect™ is applied to the soil and has a long residual (1 year); however, it usually will take 30 – 60 days for the product to reach the leaves. Professional arborists will often apply Xytect™ in the fall of the year for control the next season. Early spring application is also very effective.

Using Tengard®

Spray products, such as Tengard®, are not used very often anymore for larger trees as there are issues with drift and contact with beneficial insects. They are, however, still used on smaller plants that are easily treated with a hand sprayer. These products typically have a residual of 10 – 14 days, so begin treatment when insects are present.

