

CONTROLLING GREENFLY ON PLANTS

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Greenfly/aphids-these are small green,brown or in some cases red insects. They are found in very large numbers on plants and when populations get too big, they can develop wings and fly off to infest another one of your plants. They reproduce very quickly and don't even need another to reproduce, as they are self fertile and can give birth to live young.

They are however very easy to remove and control. All you have to do is keep on top of it and be vigilant with your plants. Here are a few easy ways to get rid of them with stuff in your house.

1. Fairy liquid-

A few drops in water in a sprayer will do the trick and spray on the plant just enough to cover the leaves, making sure to get underneath, in clusters of new growth and in the joints of the leaves. If the infestation is bad then wiping the plant down with a cloth first or rinsing down your potted plant then spraying.



2. Hand wiping the plant and spraying with water

This also works fairly well, just wipe the plant and spray with water or rinse the plant under a tap.

If your infestation is on outdoor plants and aphids are a regular occurrence on your plants then this could be due to your gardening practices. Here are a few things to keep in mind-

If you're applying a lot of fertiliser to your plants. This will encourage plenty of leafy, weak and sappy growth which the greenfly love. To fix this. Know your plants and your soil, don't needlessly apply fertiliser year after year and only when you need to and are seeing cues in the plants, such as yellow, distorted leaves or very slow growing plants.



When you garden, try to encourage insects and bugs (good ones) in the garden, insects such as ladybirds, lacewings all help combat pests and increase diversity in the garden.

1. So leaving fallen leaves in piles for insects- this will also degrade into leaf mould the following year.

2. leaving an area of the grass to grow long- you'd be amazed at what flowers can appear when the grass is left such as clover, hawkweed, pimpernel and even orchids.

3. do activities such as a bug hotel, encouraging birds in the garden etc. with a feeder or bird house.

These are all ways that drastically cut down on problems in the garden and make the garden a more interesting place to be even leaving an area with cardboard etc for slugs as they will all collect there.

Finally don't bulk plant a load of the same plants, keep it interesting and varied each year this will cut down problems such as nutrients deficiencies, pests and diseases.

Contact us! cardenden@orevalleyha.org.uk. We're here to help

