

Whiteflies

Whiteflies are easily recognizable pests that are commonly found on houseplants. Although less common, they can also be found on landscape plants, especially perennials. The adult whiteflies are around the size of a pinhead and are moth-like. When you shake an infested plant, large numbers will momentarily be dislodged and fly around your plant, making them easily identifiable. These insects cause serious damage by piercing and sucking the water and nutrients from the plant.

Signs & Symptoms

- Weak, yellowing leaves.
- Plants will be stunted and produce fewer flowers or fruit.
- Whiteflies will produce a sticky honeydew that may be somewhat sticky and look like black sooty mold.

Life Cycle

- Eggs attached to the bottom sides of leaves hatch every 5 to 7 days.
- The highest populations appear in late summer.

Management

- Spray insecticides every 7 to 14 days, covering all parts of the plant.
- Systemic insecticides may be necessary for dense populations.



Photos University of Maryland, Palm Beach County Extension