

APHID INFESTATION and CONTROL

What are Aphids?

Aphids are small soft-bodied insects that feed on plants. They secrete a sugary substance called honeydew. This drips from leaves and 'black sooty mold' can form. This can be washed away and doesn't harm plants or trees.

Aphids are affected by weather. Rain prevents winged aphids from dispersing, and knocks aphids off plants. Hot, dry weather increases the ability for aphids to reproduce and make new colonies.

Aphid Management

The City of North Vancouver has a targeted maintenance practice to control aphid infestations through the release of beneficial predatory insects.

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach has been very effective in controlling outbreaks of aphids and complies with the City's Cosmetic Pesticide Control Bylaw, 2009, No. 8041.

Early in the summer vials containing aphid predatory midge (Aa) pupae in a vermiculite medium are installed on targeted trees. There is usually a time lag between one and three weeks before predator populations catch up with the aphid populations.

What you can do to reduce aphid populations

Use a hard jet of water to dislodge aphids, ensuring to spray under the leaves and into the middle of the canopy. This should be done either in the morning or late evening, so leaves remain dry during the day.

Apply a sticky band (such as Tanglefoot or Stik-Em) around tree trunks to restrict ant movement (ants protect aphids and aphids provide ants with food). Place a protective band underneath the barrier first. Prune any branches touching the ground, buildings, or other plants.

High nitrogen levels favour aphid reproduction. Too much fertilizer promotes succulent new growth that attracts aphids. Avoid over-fertilization and use slow-release rather than highly soluble fertilizers.

Finally, preserve and encourage the presence of natural aphid predators such as birds, spiders, ladybugs, lacewing, hover fly larvae and parasitic wasps.



For more information
www.cnv.org/StreetTrees

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