



PESTS & DISEASES

Leaf Miner

Leaf miners can affect a wide variety of plants, the most commonly seen damage is on citrus trees. Damage looks like silvery tunnels, blistering/ flaky looking leaves and curling leaves.

The damage is caused by the larvae of a nocturnal moth, but can also be from beetles, wasps, sawflies or flies. Eggs are laid on or within the leaf cuticle, the grubs hatch and start eating the inside of the leaf causing the distinctive silvery lines.

The leaf will start to distort and curl with age, which can prevent the leaves from photosynthesising properly. The insect will then pupate and develop in the mature form of the species, hatch through the leaf cuticle and the cycle starts again.

Control Methods

- Remove leaves that show signs of silvery tunnels or scabbing on the leaf.
- Spray horticultural oil, the oil helps deter moths and other insects from laying eggs in the new growth.
- Prune new growth flushes in the warmer weather when leaf miners are active.