



PESTS & DISEASES

# Whitefly

Whiteflies look like tiny little white moths coated with white powdery wax, in fact they are tiny sapsucking bugs belonging to the Hemiptera family. They have a wing span of 3 mm and are found on the underside of leaves. Females lay their eggs on the undersides of leaves, once hatched the wingless juvenile nymphs that resemble scale develop into the winged adults.

When disturbed the adults fly away making it hard to control populations. Damage occurs when the insect is feeding on leaves, in high enough populations they can distort growth and cause discolouration of the leaves. Whitefly also produce a honeydew substance that sooty mould grows on.

### Control Methods

Whitefly can build up resistance to pesticides easily, so it is recommended to use an integrated pest management approach. This means use a variety of treatments to control populations.

- Treat infestations with horticultural oils and pyrethroid sprays every few weeks.
- Hosing down the plant and remove heavily infected leaves.
- Hang yellow sticky traps to catch flying adults.