

Insect Damage to plants: Recognizing it.

Signs, footprints. Whose are they?

- ❖ Shiny trails or slime:
- ❖ Flocculence (cottony, waxy material):
- ❖ Dark fecal specks
- ❖ Large excrement (frass) pale foam or spittle:
- ❖ Pitch tubes.
- ❖ Pitch masses.
- ❖ Silken mats, tents, or webs or rolled leaves:
- ❖ Cast skins:
- ❖ Sticky honeydew and blackish sooty mold:

Plants that have been chewed, tattered, or completely consumed.

- ❖ Slugs/Snails.
- ❖ Leaf-feeding beetles.
- ❖ Crickets, grasshoppers, or katydids.
- ❖ Larvae (caterpillars) of butterflies and moths
- ❖ Larvae of sawflies (broad-waisted wasps).
- ❖ Leaf cutter bees

Limited removal of the leaves leaving patchy holes.

What do the edges of the hole look like?

- ❖ Flea Beetles
- ❖ Cutworms
- ❖ Young early instars of caterpillars
- ❖ Leafcutter Bees.
- ❖ Rose slugs.

Deformation, bleaching, bronzing, stippling, or yellowed foliage on any part of the plant.

- ❖ Mites & Spider mites
- ❖ Lace bugs.
- ❖ Leaf hoppers.
- ❖ True bugs
- ❖ Thrips
- ❖ Aphids
- ❖ Gall wasp
- ❖ Psyllids

Because many of the insects and related organism that suck on the plant creates damage that can be most difficult to tell apart. it is important that the client looks for insects remains (cast skins and/or frass) or the insect itself.

Internal pest of leaves, stems, twigs, bark or trunk.

- ❖ **Adult beetles e.g., bark beetles, flatheaded borers, longhorned beetles**

Larvae of boring beetles or caterpillars (e.g., clearwing moths) feeding hidden in plants

Larvae of certain flies, moths, or sawflies (broad-waisted wasps)

Chewing damage inside a plant is usually referred to as mining or boring.

Passive trapping to detect potential pests.

- ❖ **Cake pan trap**
- ❖ **Used straws**
- ❖ **Rolled newspaper**
- ❖ **Sticky board**
- ❖ **Yeast bait**
- ❖ **Dawn/dusk surveys**
- ❖ **Beating – bucket or sheets**

Web sources:

[ANRCatalog - Container Nursery Production and Business Management Manual - ANR Catalog \(ucanr.edu\)](#)

[insect damaged leaves" site:edu - Google Search](#)

[Key to Common Insect Pest Problems on Leaves of Woody Ornamentals \(uky.edu\)](#)

[Different Pests Cause Different Damage - Gardening Solutions - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences \(ufl.edu\)](#)

[Common Signs and Symptoms on Plants Damaged by Pest Insects, Mites, Slugs, and Snails \(Arthropods\) and the Probable Causes / Floriculture and Ornamental Nurseries / Agriculture: Pest Management Guidelines / UC Statewide IPM Program \(UC IPM\) \(ucanr.edu\)](#)