

## Whiteflies

Whiteflies are tiny sap-sucking insects that damage leaves of many plants. Adults are white, sometimes with darker markings on the wings. Nymphs, which cause most of the damage, are oval, legless, and don't move. Most whiteflies are kept under good control by natural enemies. When the infestation is out of control consider insecticidal soaps, traps or removing infested plants. Pesticides that kill whiteflies also kill natural enemies.

Signs of a whitefly infestation may include:

- Tiny nymphs on undersides of leaves.

- Sticky honeydew on leaves, fruit, or beneath plants.

Protect natural enemies such as lacewings, lady bugs and mini wasps

- Avoid using pesticides.

- Prevent dusty conditions.

- Keep ants out of plants (they protect whiteflies and other insects).

Use hand removal and traps to reduce whiteflies

- Prune out isolated leaves when first detected.

- Hose off adults or use hand-held vacuum.

- Install ready-to-use sticky-coated yellow traps. Use up to one trap for every medium-sized vegetable plant.

- Promptly destroy infested annuals when flowering or fruiting ends. Put infected plants in the green waste not the compost pile.

Whiteflies can get out of control quickly! Keep a close eye on your plants and take care of the infested leaves right away. When management is required, consider insecticidal soaps, traps or removing infested plants.

For more information, go to: [ipm.ucanr.edu](http://ipm.ucanr.edu)