



Plant Pests a Problem? Horticultural Oil is a Low-Impact Solution.

Many insects winter-over as larva or eggs on trees and shrubs. This is especially the case with fruit trees, shade trees, shrubs, and roses. Gardeners can save themselves heartache this growing season by applying horticultural oil before plants and pests come out of their winter dormancy.

Horticultural oil is a highly refined petroleum or paraffin product that suffocates pests. It is effective against the following pests:

- Scales
- Aphis
- Spider mites
- Codling moth
- Galls
- Tent caterpillars
- Leaf rollers

Horticultural oil is exceptionally safe to use and gentle on non-target insects like bees and ladybugs.

Timing is important when using horticultural oil as a dormant treatment. The ideal time is generally in late March or the beginning of April. This is before the plant's leaves break dormancy and when target insects are beginning to respire. The temperature must be above 40° F and it is best if low humidity is expected for the 48 hours after the application. It is essential to apply the oil directly to the insects, so be sure to spray the entire plant.

Some plants are sensitive to oils, so make sure to check the plant's product label. Be careful when using sulfur based compounds on plants that have been treated with horticultural oil; a waiting period of thirty days is often recommended.

Modern horticultural oils can also be used during the growing season for low environmental impact pest control. They are especially useful for pests that are soft-bodied and slow moving. For details of growing season use, see the product label or come in to one of the three Dodge's Agway locations for advice.

Featured Product:

All Seasons Horticultural and Dormant Spray Oil