

Hibiscus



Plant Problem	November 21-30	November 11-20	November 1-10	October 21-31	October 11-20	October 1-10	September 21-30	September 11-20	September 1-10	August 21-31	August 11-20	August 1-10	July 21-31	July 11-20	July 1-10	June 21-30	June 11-20	June 1-10	May 21-31	May 11-20	May 1-10	April 21-30	April 11-20	April 1-10	March 21-31	March 11-20	March 1-10	
Tobacco Budworm																												
Japanese Beetle																												
Greenhouse Whitefly																												
Aphid, Cotton-Melon																												
Spider Mite, Twospotted																												
Crown and Root Rots																												

KEY: ■ fruit ■ flower ■ branches ■ leaves ■ trunk ■ crown ■ roots ■ stems

Plant Problem

Signs/Symptoms

Treatment

Tobacco Budworm



At first, buds have small holes, and very small greenish caterpillars may be found among them. When caterpillars are older, they consume entire buds and flowers and often take on the color of the flower.

At first signs, apply a microbial insecticide regularly as needed to kill younger caterpillars. Apply a residual insecticide to prevent egg-laying by the night-flying moths and to control older caterpillars. Or, remove older caterpillars hiding on plants or in mulches below.

Hibiscus

Plant Problem

Signs/Symptoms

Treatment

Japanese Beetle



Leaves are skeletonized, have ragged holes, or are completely eaten. Blossoms are also attacked. Metallic green scarab beetles with copper wings actively feed together in clusters during the day.

Pick off beetles in the early morning and drown in a bucket of soapy water. Spray foliage with neem oil as a deterrent. Capture beetles with a Japanese Beetle pheromone trap through the season. Only if necessary, spray beetles, foliage and flowers with an insecticide.

Greenhouse Whitefly



Very small whiteflies gather at growing tips and fly off in clouds when disturbed. Older leaves become speckled on top and underneath when covered with scaly nymphs. Growth is stunted.

Spray adults as observed with a low-persistence knock-down insecticide. Remove and destroy leaves infested with nymphs and pupal coverings. Apply a systemic insecticide as a soil drench, or treat plants with an insecticide, IGR, or oil spray in the evening.

Aphid, Cotton-Melon



Small, green to pinkish, soft-bodied aphids cluster on growing stems and especially the flowers. Their presence is unsightly, and feeding causes yellowing and stunts growth and flower development.

Treat when aphid numbers are increasing and damage is apparent, and re-treat if necessary. Appropriate insecticides include insecticidal soap, horticultural spray oil, neem oil, or contact or systemic insecticides. To preserve natural enemies, avoid contact insecticides.

Spider Mite, Twospotted



Leaves stippled or yellow with fine webbing on undersides of leaves. Tiny greenish mites moving beneath webbing. When foliage turns brown, mites may mass together at tips of stems.

Populations explode during prolonged hot, dry weather. Monitor in late July, checking undersides of leaves. Keep host plants well-watered. Dislodge colonies with a strong spray of water. Apply an insecticide/miticide if infestations become serious; repeat in 10 days.

Crown and Root Rots



Small and unthrifty plants; appear to be lacking fertilizer. Roots are mushy and wet and are brown to black.

Sanitation. Improve soil drainage. Drench fungicide application.