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Early prevention should keep aphids at bay

By Gerald Filipski, Edmonton Journal May 14, 2013 10:26 AM

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Early application of pesticides with permethrin can be quite effective at ridding your favourite Virginia creeper of aphids.

Photograph by: File , Edmonton Journal

Q: I always have a huge problem with aphids on my Virginia creepers. I have six of them along a chain-link fence. I actually got the idea for this fence treatment from a column of yours a few years back. I really like the way the creepers soften the look of the fence, but no matter how often I spray, I can't seem to get ahead of those aphids. What can I do?

A: You may be able to control the aphid problem with a single application of pesticide, if you do it at the right time of the year. Doktor Doom House and Garden is a very good product for this application; it has residual properties, which means it is long-lasting, reducing the need for more frequent applications.

Early in the growing season, spray the fence, wall, trellis or whatever surface the Virginia creeper is growing on as well as the plant itself. Any aphids that are present will die off once they come in contact with any of the treated surfaces. There is some evidence that this treatment acts not only as a pesticide but also as a repellent, because of the active ingredient permethrin.

This same preventive strategy can be applied to ants. Since it looks to be another bad season for ants, it is a good idea to get after them early. This will prevent them from foraging and bringing food back to the nest, feeding the queen and giving her the ability to lay eggs. Use Doktor Doom Residual for this as soon as possible, and you will need fewer applications throughout the rest of the season.


You can find Doktor Doom products at independent garden centres such as Apache Seeds; Canar Rock Products; Salisbury Garden Centre; Greenland Garden Centre; Ellerslie Gift and Garden; Classic Landscaping; and Hole's at the Enjoy Centre.

Q: I spend a lot of time watering my beds and containers, and I always take time to water the lawn by hand. Does it need more water than I am giving it?

A: Yes, the water you are applying by hand is not enough. Lawns like to have a deeper watering. You should set a sprinkler and let it run for one to one-and-a-half hours. Because this penetrating watering lasts longer, you won't have to water as frequently. Once a week even during the heat waves is plenty.

Gerald Filipski is a member of the Garden Writers Association of America. E-mail your questions to filipski@shaw.ca. He is the author of Just Ask Jerry, available at local bookshops, garden centres and online at chapters.ca. To read previous columns, go to edmontonjournal.com/filipski

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YES! YES! YES! The reliance on pest control products is DECREASED by proper timing and proper use. This is a GREATLY SUPERIOR STRATEGY than ARBITRARY PROHIBITIONS that INFLICT GARBAGE DUMP Green Spaces. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-44g> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-4z3> These products, in fact, are GOOD FOR THE BEAUTIFICATION AND PRESERVATION OF OUR URBAN ENVIRONMENT. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-1JM>

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