

Fast Facts - Leafhoppers

By Nanette Londeree

Signs

- ❑ Slender, wedge shaped winged adult insects less than one-quarter inch long in varying shades of green, yellow, brown or mottled sitting, crawling sideways or jumping on plant leaves, predominately in early spring and late summer
- ❑ Tiny nymphs that move with a crab-like walk when disturbed
- ❑ Pale cast skins of nymph and adult insects on the undersides of plant leaves

Symptoms

- ❑ Stippled, pale or brown leaves generally early in the season
- ❑ New shoots that curl and die
- ❑ Chalky residue on leaves
- ❑ Honeydew and sooty mold on leaves
- ❑ Pimple-like swellings on rose canes

Cause

- ❑ Plant-juice sucking leafhopper from the family Cicadellidae; rose leafhopper (*Edwardsiana rosae*)



Optimal Conditions

- ❑ Overwinters as eggs on or in leaves or twigs, or as adults in protected places like bark crevices in roses and raspberries, blackberries and dewberries
- ❑ Dogwood, oak, elm, hawthorn, apple, poplar and maple are among summer hosts
- ❑ Lays eggs in tender, young plant tissues; can produce two or more generations a year

Treatment

Prevention:

- ❑ Maintain good garden sanitation; remove fallen rose leaves and discard
- ❑ Dormant spray with horticultural oil

Elimination:

- ❑ Tolerate damage; rarely causes significant harm to plants
- ❑ Apply an insecticidal soap for possible control of nymphs; difficult to control adults effectively because of their mobility



Good Guy / Bad Guy?

- ❑ Mostly a nuisance unless the level of damage is not tolerable, then they are a bad guy

Photos courtesy of UC IPM website