

Insects and Aquatic Plants

Aphids

Attacks hardy and tropical water lilies and bog plants. Look for small greenish insects the size of a pinhead, found on upper surfaces of leaves and on buds and flowers.

Treatment: Wash the aphids off of the plants into the water. The fish will eat the aphids.

Delta Moth Larvae or “Sandwich Man”

Attacks hardy and tropical water lilies. “C” shaped chunks cut from leaf margins ¼” to ½” holes in inner surface of leaf. Look for small white to yellowish caterpillar sandwiched between two pieces of leaf.

Treatment: Remove as many of the affected leaves as possible.

Skipper Larvae

Attacks cannas. Tropical types are more susceptible to attack than hardy types. Leaves fail to open due to being tied shut with caterpillar silk. Leaf margins are cut in two places to form a tab, which is folded over the larvae. They are greenish and clear-skinned.

Treatment: Remove as many of the affected leaves as possible.

Lotus Webworm or Corn Borer

Attacks Lotus – upper surface of leaf is eaten away giving a skeleton appearance. Center stem is often bored into from the top surface. Look for ½” to ¾” brown to tan colored caterpillar under webs and in center hole.

Treatment: Dust the leaves with Sevin Dust, being careful not to allow dust to come into contact with the fish.

Leaf Miners

Attacks Iris, hardy and tropical water lilies. Whitish tunnels in lower part of the iris leaf where it joins the rhizome. Haphazard tunnels in water lily leaf. Severe cases result in outer leaf easily separating from the middle section. Look for pinhead-sized brown, oblong, pupae cases. Also look for small white grubs at the end of tunnels.

Treatment: Remove as many affected leaves as possible. May treat with Malathion if fish are not present.

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