

The GUMBO LIMBO SPIRALING WHITEFLY, a New Whitefly in South Florida

A guide for homeowners

This new whitefly is a large, slow moving insect capable of infesting a wide range of landscape plants such as:

- gumbo limbo
- banana
- black olive
- mango
- palms
- live oak
- some shrubs such as copperleaf, cocoplum and wax myrtle
- and other plants



Adults on the underside of a palm leaflet.

But DON'T panic. This whitefly is different from the ficus whitefly. So far, the gumbo limbo spiraling whitefly is not causing severe plant damage such as plant death or severe branch die-back.



Eggs are laid in spirals.

What to look for: white spirals and a build-up of a white, waxy substance on the underside of leaves. This coats the eggs and immature whiteflies. If populations build-up greatly, infested plants can become covered with the white, waxy substance. This can sometimes become weakened and also be disfigured by the black sooty mold that grows on the insect's excrement (referred to as honeydew). The sticky honeydew can accumulate on cars, pool decks and patio furniture from infested trees overhead. Honeydew does not damage paint. Once the insect is under control, the sooty mold and honeydew will disappear.

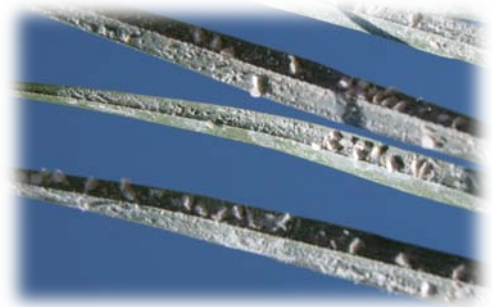
Management: as soon as you see the white spirals, you need to do one of the following.

Small plants - thoroughly wash plants off with a strong stream of water. Follow-up with insecticidal soap or horticultural oil sprayed once a week for 3-4 weeks. Repeat as needed.

ALWAYS FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS. The Label is the Law.

Larger plants & ornamental trees; heavily infested ornamental plants - thoroughly wash plants off with a strong stream of water. *You may want to consider using a systemic insecticide (labeled for whitefly control in landscapes) that can be applied to the soil as a drench, as a granule, or as a tablet. Systemics may take several weeks to be effective for large trees but are VERY long lasting (9 - 12 months). A list of insecticides is on the other side of this page.

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Underside of an infested palm frond.

*Tip: if you have many heavily infested plants, you can purchase professional strength, non-restricted use insecticides. This may be more cost effective compared to the homeowner version of systemic insecticides. Consult your phone book or your County Extension office for pesticide suppliers in your area. Or hire a professional landscape pest control company with experience controlling whiteflies in the landscape.

Fruit trees - call your County Extension office for recommendations since most pesticides are not labeled for tropical fruit trees. See management suggestions for small plants listed above. Whiteflies can be wiped off banana leaves with a cloth.

The tables below list insecticides labeled for homeowner use against whiteflies (plants and trees EXCEPT fruit trees). These are available at garden centers, retail nurseries, and hardware stores.

Contact (sprayed directly onto the pest. These are least-toxic - less harmful to natural enemies of pests and to the environment.)

Trade Name(s)	Active Ingredient	Chemical Class
BioNeem (Bonide); Neem Oil (Green Light, Southern Ag); Rose Defense (Green Light)	Neem oil	Botanical
Organocide; Ultra-fine Horticultural Oil (Sunspray and others)	Paraffinic oil, vegetable oil	Biorational
Insecticidal Soap (various brands)	Potassium salts	Biorational

Systemics (usually applied to the base of the plant as a soil drench and very long lasting. Less harmful to natural enemies of pests.)

Trade Name(s)	Active Ingredient	Chemical Class
Tree & Shrub Insect Control with Safari (Green Light)	Dinotefuran	Neonicotinoid
Tree & Shrub Insect Control (Bayer Advanced, Ortho Max); Tree & Shrub Protect and Feed (Bayer Advanced); and other products	Imidacloprid	Neonicotinoid

Others (some may harm natural enemies of whiteflies.)

Trade Name(s)	Active Ingredient	Chemical Class
Flower, Fruit & Vegetable Insect Killer (Ortho)	Acetamiprid	Neonicotinoid
Bug-B-Gon Max Lawn & Garden Insect Killer (Ortho)	Bifenthrin	Pyrethroid
Rose & Flower Insect Killer (Bayer Advanced); Lawn & Garden Insect Killer (Schultz)	Cyfluthrin	Pyrethroid
Triazicide Once & Done Insect Killer (Spectracide), liquid	Lambda-cyhalothrin	Pyrethroid
Malathion (various brands)	Malathion	Organophosphate
Indoor/Outdoor Broad Use Insecticide (Hi-Yield)	Permethrin	Pyrethroid
Yard & Garden Insect Killer (Bonide); Rose & Flower Insect Spray (Spectracide)	Pyrethrins	Botanical

For more information

<http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/> and click onto the " gumbo limbo spiraling whitefly" link or contact the UF/IFAS Miami-Dade County Extension office (305 248-3311).



Prepared by: A. Hunsberger, Urban Horticulture Agent & Entomologist, UF/IFAS Miami-Dade County Extension, and Dr. Catharine Mannion, Entomologist, UF/IFAS TREC.
Reviewed by T. Olczyk, UF/IFAS Miami-Dade County Extension Director. Nov. 2010.
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