



FYN Garden Q & A Series

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Yards & Neighborhoods



FYN Topic: Sri Lanka Weevil

Question: I see a small bug chewing on the leaves of my key lime and other plants in my yard. It's the size of a ladybug except it is white and grayish colored with small black spots. How do I rid myself of them? Spraying them didn't work.
Chuck from Cape Coral

Answer: This sounds like the Sri Lanka Weevil. This insect has become a persistent landscape pest in South Florida. This weevil damages new leaves on over 100 different plants. Feeding damage by this insect leaves tattered, gnarly-looking new leaves on plants. This insect goes unnoticed until it is disturbed by shaking branches. The most environmentally-friendly way to control them on trees and shrubs is to open an umbrella, turn it upside down, and shake the plant above the umbrella until the weevils fall out. Then dump the weevils into a bucket of soapy water. Damage to garden plants is usually only aesthetic. Key limes that are well established will recover from their feeding without any treatment. However, damage on younger plants can look quite severe. If this method does not get them under control, insecticides with the active ingredients, acephate or one containing a pyrethroid provide some relief. These little guys can fly. Be sure to apply the insecticide spray in such a way that it comes in contact with all the weevils present. Plan to repeat your spray every 10-14 days until feeding subsides. Thanks to Lee County Master Gardener, Jake Tomlinson for this answer.



Useful Links

<http://www.floridayards.org>
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>
<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>
<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>

Sri Lanka Weevil

Thomas Becker is an extension agent for the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program at the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the Horticulture Help Desk at 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by emailing Extgardener@leegov.com. Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

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