

## CHILLI THRIPS



### **Simplified Version**

- 1) Cut off new affected growth.
- 2) Seasol once a week.
- 3) Alternate every 7-10 days with either Success, Maverick, Neem Oil, Nature's Way Natrasoap & Bug Gun.
- 4) Long term: Introduce beneficial flowering plants to attract predators (eg. Alyssum, Seaside Daisy, Shasta Daisy, Carpeting Thyme, Oregano, Marjoram, Cosmos, Daisy, Myoprum, Lippia and Yarrow).

### **Comprehensive Version**

Chilli thrips have been doing extensive damage to roses in Perth in 2020 and 2021. They use their front mandibles to rasp at the soft new tissue of leaves and rose buds and then suck the liquid which is exuded. Leaves and buds look almost burnt and will not recover. They are extremely hard to see, so cut a damaged piece off your bush and bang it on a white piece of paper and look closely to see tiny yellow/white insects running over the paper. Once confirmed that it is thrips treat immediately. New pest problems always settle down after a year or 2, see overleaf for long-term control strategies.

Treatment:

1. Remove the damaged buds and leaves by deadheading the bush. Put the clippings into a black plastic bag and put in general waste bin, especially if contaminated with pest sprays.
2. Spray with either **Maverick, Success, Neem Oil, Nature's Way Natrasoap or Bug Gun**, until you reach the drip off point. You will need to purchase two different products. Use one product the first week and then alternate each spray with a different product to ensure the thrips do not build up resistance to the product. Spray every 6-8 days for four applications to eradicate the thrips from the plants. Spray when there is little wind, and the temperature



is below 35°C, early morning or evening. Also remember to wear your PPE and follow safety instructions on the product.

3. Water weekly with Seasol to help plant recover and increase sap flow.

4. Once new growth emerges and is healthy and fresh keep a close eye on the plants for any new damage and spray every 3-4 weeks to help prevent re-infection if the problem persists.

### Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Long-term control

As this pest (or any other one) becomes resistant to chemicals, you will need to implement a long-term strategy to reduce the susceptibility of plants to pests and diseases. Start by cutting back on or reducing synthetic nitrogen fertilisers, which make tissues softer and more vulnerable to attack. Low nitrogen options are Sabrina Hans GROSAFE and Prime garden fertiliser. No Frills Rock Dust is the only fertiliser we have which is certified organic because it has no synthetic nitrogen. No Frills Rock Dust does contain nitrogen fixing bacteria, and when the plants get their nitrogen and other nutrients from the Soil Food Web (SFW) their immune system functions better. Also be aware that many manures are remarkably high in Nitrogen and should be used sparingly. They are best composted before use to stabilise the nutrients as recommended in Josh Burn's River safe gardening campaign.

The recommended fertilisers will work best in conjunction with seaweed and fish emulsion products to restore the health and natural functions of plants and soil. Eco Vital is a product which contains fish, seaweed, molasses, and beneficial microbes! Molasses will enhance microbiology function in the plants. If the product you have at home does not contain molasses (e.g., Seasol), simply add one dessert spoon of molasses per watering can/9l. Foliar spray is beneficial as the plants are then able to instantly absorb complex nutrients into the leaves. Use weekly to help build up the beneficial microbiology in and around the plant.

Using beneficial plants around roses will help to create habitat that will attract beneficial insects like Lacewings, Hoverflies and Ladybirds. With a constant food supply, they will stay in the garden ready to eat the next pest outbreak! Great plants to use include Alyssum, Seaside Daisy, Shasta Daisy, carpeting Thyme, Oregano, Marjoram, Cosmos, Myoprum, Lippia and Yarrow.

Remember, like in natural ecological systems, the more biodiverse your garden is, the more resilient it will be, and better for your health too!

