



Bug Squashing

Plant Pest Guide to Removal and Prevention

What's covered in this guide?

 Mealybugs

 Thrips

 Spider Mites

 Aphids

 Fungus Gnats

 Scale

Maintaining a healthy indoor garden involves regular inspection for pests. Look out for signs like yellowing leaves, sticky residue, or visible insects. Early detection helps prevent the spread to other plants.

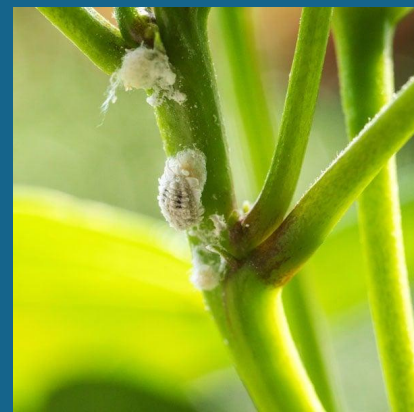
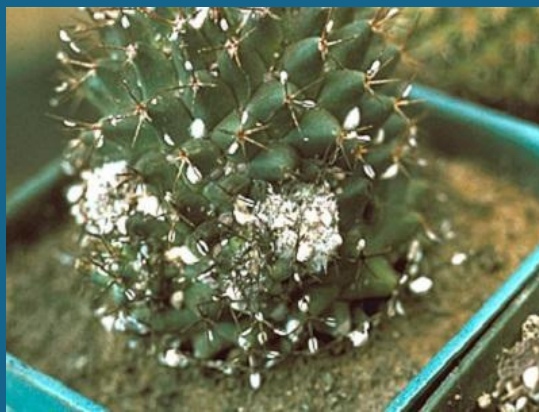
Keep your plants stress-free by ensuring proper lighting, watering, and ventilation. Avoid over-fertilizing, as it can attract pests. Use natural remedies like neem oil or insecticidal soap for common pests. Quarantine new plants before introducing them to prevent pest entry.

Follow these practices for effective pest prevention and a thriving jungle!

What are MealyBugs?

Unarmored scale insects found in moist, warm habitats.

- Mealybugs feed by inserting long sucking mouthparts, called stylets, into plants and drawing sap out of the tissue.
- Damage is not often significant at low pest levels. At higher numbers they can cause leaf yellowing and curling as the plant weakens.
- Feeding is usually accompanied by honeydew, which makes the plant sticky and encourages the growth of mold.



Identify	Squash	Prevent
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Soft-bodied, wingless insects● Covered in white powdery wax● When wet, appear brown● Elliptical in shape● Usually found at rest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Spot treatment: 70% isopropyl rubbing alcohol will kill mealybugs on the spot. Spray it all over your leaves or wipe the mealybugs with a Q-tip soaked in it.● Squash: beneficial insects such as ladybugs or lacewing<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Insecticidal soap on heavy infestations works well too. Works by damaging the outer layer of pests, causing dehydration and death within hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Neem oil smells terrible but has repellent and antifeedant properties. Best of all it is non toxic to honeybees and other beneficial insects.● Bonide's Systemic Houseplant Insect Control are highly effective granules that prevent most pest infestations● Washing foliage regularly with a leaf shine

What are Thrips?

Thrips are extremely active pests that damage plants by sucking their juices, and scraping at flowers and leaves.

- Thrips are annoying since they lay their eggs INSIDE the plant tissue, meaning the treatments only kill larvae and adults, meaning repeating treatments are necessary
- Most thrips are less than 1/20 of an inch long, so they're not easy to spot with the naked eye.



Identify	Squash	Prevent
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very small• Fringe-winged• Pale-colored• Eat away at the leaf surface, leaving silvery scratch marks – if you see this kind of leaf damage, check both sides of the leaf• Light-yellow larvae• Thin black adult	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A lint roller as physical removal• Good 'ole fashioned jet spraying the thrips into oblivion.• Take plant out of its pot and spray off all soil from roots, bring plant into shower then spray rubbing alcohol and insecticidal soap• Repot plant into new soil with Bonide's Systemic Houseplant Insect Control mixed in. When thrips move into the soil during that one stage of life, they will DIE!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bonide's Systemic Houseplant Insect Control are highly effective granules that prevent most pest infestations• Washing foliage regularly with a leaf shine

What are Spider Mites?

Spider mites are tiny sucking pests found on the underside of leaves and can quickly wreak havoc on your favorite plants.

- Spider mites have what are called piercing-sucking mouth parts. Feeding occurs when they poke that little sucker into the leaf and remove the liquid from the leaf.
- This type of damage reduces the plant's ability to produce food for the plant via photosynthesis.



Identify	Squash	Prevent
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fine webbing around plant• Hold a sheet of white paper under some of the leaves while shaking the branch a bit. After doing this, if you see some tiny dark specks, you will have confirmed the presence of spider mites• Leaves with spider mite damage have small little specks all over them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevent reproduction. Boost humidity by misting your plants and keeping around standing bowls of water• Release a predatory mite, phytoseiulus persimilis if temperatures are above 15 degrees Celsius• Use Neem Oil and Bonide's if temperatures are below 15 degrees Celsius.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neem oil smells terrible but has repellent and antifeedant properties. Best of all it is non toxic to honeybees and other beneficial insects.• Bonide's Systemic Houseplant Insect Control are highly effective granules that prevent most pest infestations• Washing foliage regularly with a leaf shine

What are Aphids?

Aphids reproduce in the blink of an eye and literally suck the lifeblood right out of our plants.

- We crank up the heater and thus reduce humidity in the air. Our beloved planties become more susceptible to these rotten little bugs when they start to dry out.
- Often, we see aphids on plants that spent the summer outside and have been brought back in for the winter. One or two aphids can turn into a full-fledged invasion before you know it.
- They can reproduce both sexually and asexually, and the females often hatch from their eggs already pregnant!
- Each aphid reaches adulthood in 5-7 days.
- Adult females can produce up to 100 offspring in a month, and when you think about how many of those offspring are pregnant females—well, that's a lot of aphids. Their exponential reproduction rate is what makes them so devastating.



Identify	Squash	Prevent
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most commonly green on houseplants• Tiny, pear-shaped bodies• Some have wings, which allow them to fly off and invade your next plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For early infestations, rubbing alcohol• Jet spray them into oblivion• Gently dunk plants upside down in a bucket of room temperature water. Make sure all their leaves are submerged and run your fingers along the stems and leaves to make sure you've removed all the aphids	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During the winter when furnaces are on, increase humidity as well• Bonide's Systemic Houseplant Insect Control are highly effective granules that prevent most pest infestations• Washing foliage regularly with a leaf shine

What are Fungus Gnats?

As a plant lover, fungus gnats are the worst. We know what they look like. They quietly fly around, often just a few inches from your face, daring you to catch them.

- Though harmless to humans, fungus gnats can multiply rapidly in indoor plants, laying their larvae in the top layer of potting mix.
- These pesky gnats can be brought indoors from outside plants during overwintering, are transported into your home by infected plants picked up at the nursery or garden center and love to hide in overly moist soil full of decaying plant matter.
- Once they are introduced into one plant, they easily make their home in other nearby plants, their larvae happily awaiting birth in the first inch or so of soil.
- Larvae primarily survive off fungi found in the soil but may also feed on root hairs.
- As the adults lay their eggs and multiply, the infestation continues to grow.



Identify	Squash	Prevent
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flying gnats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cinnamon – sprinkle a bit on top of your soil, the gnats will fly away at an incomprehensible speed.• Yellow sticky traps – not a fan myself but they somewhat get the job done.• Repot into chunky soil.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bonide’s Systemic Houseplant Insect Control• Earthworm castings – these can be a natural bug repellent.

What are Scale?

Bifasciculate scale insects are typical armored scale insects. It is also known as the false Florida red scale.

- They molt a few times before maturing into adults.
- Male crawlers settle down to feed and develop, but the adult male is a tiny, two-winged insect that seeks out females to mate through a flap at the edge of the female armor.
- Males die soon after mating.
- At least two generations occur each growing season.
- The summer generation develops somewhat faster than the spring generation.
- The armor of bifasciculate scales protects them from many (but not all) parasites, pesticides and predators.



Identify	Squash	Prevent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convex 'armor' • Adults brown to almost black in color at the edge, yellow to dark yellow in the center • 'Crawlers' are the young and yellow • Females settle down to feed and remain stationary • Adult males are a two winged insect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insecticidal soap on heavy infestations • Neem oil when new plant growth has hardened off a little 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonide's Systemic Houseplant Insect Control • Beneficial predators