

AZALEA LACE BUG

A common garden pest which can be easily controlled if symptoms are recognised early on. Affects azaleas and rhodohendrons most commonly.

SYMPTOMS Leaves have a “silvery” mottled appearance. Small brown spots on the underside of the leaf.

PREVENTION/CONTROL The most effective control is to spray with a systemic insecticide such as “Confidor”. In spring the plant’s new growth will appear healthy and pest free but as it warms up, eggs will hatch from the previous seasons infestation and infect this lush new growth. So be sure to spray in spring to protect this growth eg. **November**. Follow this up with a spray in **January** and **March**.

If plants have been severely infested, a hard prune and feed after flowering will improve aesthetic value. Also keeping plants well fed and watered will help improve pest resistance eg. with “All Purpose Plant Food”.



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