



SPITTLEBUGS

Host Plants and Description

Spittlebugs are pests of many garden plants, including trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals. The young nymph encases itself with spittle for protection as it matures. Depending on the species, spittlebug nymphs are green or brown. Adults are also brownish; meadow spittlebugs may have light stripes down their sides.

Plant Damage / Symptoms

Spittlebug nymphs are easily recognizable by the globs of white froth that they produce on stems and leaves in early summer. Both adults and nymphs feed by sucking plant juices, and sometimes plant growth can be distorted, but in most cases, damage is not significant enough to warrant treatment. Heavy infestations of pine spittlebug can restrict sap flow and allow for the development of Diplodia shoot blight.

Controls

In most cases, control is not necessary, as spittlebugs have many natural enemies and are usually not present in great enough numbers to cause significant damage. Try hand picking, or wash spittlebugs off with a forceful spray of water. Insecticidal soap works well for heavier infestations. Controls for pine spittlebug include acephate or carbaryl (Sevin).