

Blackcurrant Leaf Curling Midge

This can often be a serious pest of blackcurrants. The varieties 'Ben Connan' and 'Ben Sarek' are however resistant.



DAMAGE

The adult midges emerge from the soil in late April and lay eggs in the unfolded leaves. The minute legless grubs which are white or orange in colour, feed on the surface of the leaves, stop them 'unfolding' and they remain twisted and necrotic and eventually turn black. A severe infestation stunts the new growth. There are three main generations each year, the last one over-winters in the soil to emerge the following spring as adult midges.

CONTROL

Non Chemical Control

Cultivating the soil around the bushes regularly during dry weather from the spring to autumn will destroy many pupae by exposing them to drying conditions. Pick off badly affected leaves to reduce numbers.

Chemical Control

It is a difficult pest to control as it is hard to get sprays into the tightly curled leaves. Westland 'Resolva Bug Killer' which is available in a ready to use spray and as a concentrate can be used to help control this pest. Several applications may be needed taking care to follow manufacturer's guidelines in regards to spray and harvest intervals.

USE CHEMICALS SAFELY: ALWAYS READ THE LABEL

When using chemicals it is most important to follow the manufacturer's instructions precisely. Only use on the fruits that are listed on the manufacturer's label. An accurate weighing machine and measuring cylinder should be obtained. Chemicals can be wasted by making concentrations unnecessarily strong or by making them too weak and ineffective. Furthermore, if chemicals are too strong they may cause damage to the foliage.