



Gooseberry Sawfly

The Gooseberry Sawfly is a common pest of gooseberries, red and white currants. A related species attacks blackcurrants.



DAMAGE

The adult sawfly lays its eggs in the centres of gooseberry bushes, often on the underside of leaves. The larvae are up to 20mm long, pale green with black spots and black heads and are usually noticed after fruit-set towards the end of May. Damage commences mid to late spring. The larvae feed on the foliage throughout the bushes. If control measures are not implemented the bushes can be completely defoliated and the berries do not swell. There can be two or three generations a year as once the larvae are fully fed they go back into the soil and pupate, so further damage may occur later in the season. Plants weakened by defoliation may produce a poor crop the following summer.

CONTROL

Non Chemical Control

Plants should be checked regularly for this pest from mid April onwards and larvae picked off by hand.

Natural Predators known as nematodes can be used against this pest. Nematodes are microscopic worm-like creatures that attack by entering the bodies of the larvae infecting them with a fatal bacterial disease thus killing them and breaking the pest's lifecycle. Nematodes will only work when the pest is present therefore they should be watered onto infested plants once the first larvae are seen. Three applications at weekly intervals should be made to ensure that all hatchings are caught.

Chemical Control

Check plants regularly and spray when the first young larvae are seen, repeating as directed by the manufacturer.

Natural (Organic) Sprays

Sprays based on natural pyrethrum/pyrethrins which are derived from the flowers of a member of the Chrysanthemum genus *Tanacetum cinerariifolium*, work on contact. An interval of at least 24 hours is required between spraying and picking the fruit

Pyrol Bug & Larvae Killer – concentrate or ready to use.
Defenders Bug Killer

Commercially available synthetic pesticides

Synthetic pesticides generally give a higher level of control however care must be taken when using on edible plants in respect to the number of applications being made and the length of time that should be left between spraying and harvesting. The following synthetic sprays can be used against Gooseberry Sawfly.

Westland Resolva Bug Killer (*Llambda cyhalothrin*) – concentrate or ready to use.

Bayer Sprayday Greenfly Killer (*Deltamethrin*)

Bayer **Provado Ultimate Fruit & Vegetable Bug Killer** (*Deltamethrin*) - concentrate or ready to use

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.