

Plant Pests

Practical skills

Identifying the common pests, and the least drastic effective treatment.

Identification and first treatment.

Pest	Looks like	Treat
Aphids	Green or black clusters on new growth	Water jet, then soap spray
Spider mites	Fine webbing, stippled leaves	Raise humidity, soap spray
Scale	Brown bumps on stems	Scrape off, alcohol swab
Mealybugs	White cottony spots	Alcohol on a cotton bud
Fungus gnats	Small flies at the soil	Let soil dry; sticky traps
Slugs and snails	Ragged holes, slime	Barriers, traps, hand removal

Isolate an affected plant immediately. Most of these spread to neighbours within days.