

Canna Leaf Roller

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FIG. 1

Type Pest: chewing insect

Type Metamorphous: complete (egg, larva, pupa, adult stages)

Period of Primary Occurrence: spring through late fall

- Can be three or more generations in a single season
- Lesser canna leaf roller overwinters as larvae in our area
- Lesser canna leaf roller larvae may continue to be a problem over mild winters when plants continue to produce new foliage

Plants Affected

- Canna and arrowroot

Identifying Characteristics of Insect Pest

- Two species occur in our area
 - Canna leaf roller (*Calpodex ethlius*) is lime green
 - the lesser canna leaf roller (*Geshna cannalis*) is a yellowish caterpillar.
 The lesser canna is the dominant pest for our area
- Both feed inside rolled leaves

Description / Symptoms

- Plant leaves look like rolled tubes (Fig. 5)
- Leaf rollers feed on the insides of the leaf as they pupate and can decimate plants
- Leaf rolling reduces the aesthetic appeal of ornamental canna and voracious leaf feeding by larger larvae may be so severe that plants do not flower
- In food crops, such as arrowroot, severely defoliated plants may produce little of the harvestable rhizome

ADULT STAGE

- The adult stage is a butterfly commonly known as the Brown Skipper Butterfly
- Adult stage is also known as Brazilian Skipper, the Canna Butterfly, or the Arrowroot Butterfly
- Adult stage feeds on nectar from a variety of flowers



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4

Best Management Practices (BMP)

CULTURAL CONTROL

- Maintain proper sanitation including removing all canna leaf debris from the garden after frost has killed back foliage

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

- Use of Bt as a Spray: The bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (commonly known as Bt) is effective if it is used against young larvae, thorough coverage of all foliage is needed

CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Several insecticides provide effective control of canna leaf roller. Thorough coverage of all foliage is needed. Use systemic insecticides in a foliar spray (Orthene). Carbaryl (Sevin) can be applied as sprays or dusts



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Use pesticides only according to the directions on the label. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. If the information does not agree with current labeling, follow the label instructions. The label is the law.

Always remember to read and heed six of the most important words on the label: "KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN"

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