



Wm. Wheat & Son

FLORIST & GARDEN CENTRE

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Gardeners Guide to:

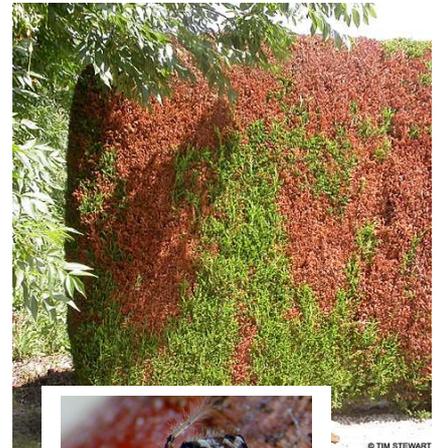
Cypress Aphid

(*Cinara cupressivora*)

Cypress aphid is one of the causes of dieback on conifer hedges. It has become an increasingly damaging pest on conifer hedges since the 1980s, particularly on Leyland cypress hedges. Several popular hedging conifers are affected, including *Cupressus macrocarpa*, Lawson's cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*), *Thuja* and Leyland cypress (*xCupressocyparis leylandii*).

Symptoms Yellowing shoots in summer; by late summer many of these will be brown and dead. On clipped hedges the dieback can be quite pronounced, with the lower parts more severely affected than the top. A black powdery coating of sooty mould often develops on the stems and foliage.

Cypress aphid is a blackish brown sap-feeding insect that infests the stems of some hedging conifers in early summer. This causes a gradual drying up of the foliage.



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- On clipped hedges the dieback can be quite pronounced, with the lower parts more severely affected than the top
- A black powdery coating of sooty mould often develops on the stems and foliage
- Damaged hedges can recover but it is likely to be a slow process

Chemical control

- Spray in early summer to prevent damage occurring
- Suitable products contain thiacloprid (Bayer Provado Ultimate Bug Killer Concentrate), acetamiprid (Scotts Bug Clear Ultra) or thiamethoxam.
- It is often difficult to spray large dense hedges thoroughly, and in years when the aphid is abundant, some damage will occur

Damage is caused by greyish brown aphids which are active from May to November, reaching peak numbers in early to mid-summer.

- They suck sap from the stems and even quite light infestations can have a significant effect
- Although the aphids are fairly large, 2-4mm long (about 1/8in), they are difficult to see
- A useful confirmation of aphid damage is the presence of a black sooty mould, as there are other causes of dieback on conifers
- Other causes of dieback include drought, scorching caused by wind or extreme temperatures, excessive clipping of a hedge, and root diseases such as honey fungus and Phytophthora root rot.