

June signals the local appearance of the Citrus Leafminer

The Citrus Leafminer first invaded California in 2000, and is now common in most of Southern California. The adult is a tiny 1/4 inch long light colored moth that causes no damage. It is the larval stage that cause the distinctive leaf damage seen in our gardens. Leafminers attack the flush new growth of citrus; mature leaves are hardened and are not susceptible to attack. The damage is mostly esthetic, visually effecting the look of the tree but has negligible effect on tree growth and fruit yield.



Typical Citrus Leafminer damage.

Control of Citrus Leafminer

In regions where the Citrus Leafminer invasion is long established the experience has been a high level of damage the first couple of years with a decrease over time due to the increase of the local population of natural enemies that parasitize or consume the Leafminers. High heat also suppresses the Leafminer. ***In our coastal area, the Citrus Leafminer remains active from late spring through fall.***

Spinodad is an organic byproduct of a natural fermentation process that is effective in the control of the Citrus Leafminer. Applied by a liquid spray, Spinosad is highly effective in relatively low concentrations, has little effect on beneficial insects, and has no special handling or use restrictions. The downside of the product is that it needs to be applied every 14 days. Conversely, use of broad spectrum insecticides (Malathion and Pyrethroids for example) are not recommend as they will kill beneficial insects and can result in a buildup of whitefly and scale insects.

Clients of **A New Leaf** weekly maintenance programs will be seeing the application of Spinosad every two weeks beginning this month.



A New Leaf

Performs the

Following services:

Drainage correction

Irrigation check-up, adjustments and repair

Planting review and recommendations

Lighting check-up

Pest control

Fertilization

Seasonal Color Changes

Garden enhancements for special occasions