



Protecting Your Ash Trees from Aphids

Earlier this year, the Pleasant View HOA elected to treat the boulevard trees in the neighborhood to help jumpstart the control of aphid infestation. Ongoing aphid control is the responsibility of the homeowner. It is recommended to use a local licensed arborist to care for the trees on your property, but here is a helpful guide on options to do it yourself.

Aphid infestations can compromise tree health and drop sticky, messy fluid on sidewalks and vehicles. Follow this simple neighborhood guide to protect our streetscapes.

■ CRITICAL WARNING: ASH TREES ARE MOST AT RISK

Our neighborhood boulevard **Ash Trees (*Fraxinus* spp.)** are highly vulnerable to localized *Ash Leafcurl Aphids* this season. Infested Ash trees will show severe leaf curling, early defoliation, and heavy accumulation of honeydew (sticky waste) which fosters black sooty mold. Please check your front-yard boulevard Ash trees immediately!

1. Weekly Visual Inspections

- **Check the Undersides:** Aphids colonize beneath tender, newly sprouted leaves.
- **Look for Deformity:** Identify tightly curled, puckered, or twisted leaf clumps early.
- **Spot Sticky Residue:** Shine a light on lower branches to check for shiny honeydew.

2. Non-Chemical Control Options

- **Strong Water Blasts:** Use a high-pressure hose nozzle to physically blast colonies off undersides before curling seals them in.
- **Beneficial Predators:** Purchase and release natural hunters like *Ladybugs* or *Lacewings* directly into the tree canopy.
- **Sticky Trunk Bands:** Wrap trunks in sticky barrier tape. This blocks ants from climbing up to herd and protect aphids from natural predators.

3. Eco-Friendly & Chemical Treatments

- **Horticultural Oils & Neem:** Apply organic soaps thoroughly over leaves early in the season before the leafcurl shields them.
- **Systemic Soil Drenches:** For heavily recurring infestations, apply a systemic soil drench around the base in spring or early fall for root absorption.
- **Debris Clean Up:** Always rake and discard fallen, infested leaves. Aphids lay eggs on shed foliage to overwinter and restart cycles.



■ FERTILIZER WARNING

DO NOT over-fertilize your lawn or trees with high-nitrogen mixes! Excess nitrogen stimulates rapid, succulent leaf growth. This lush tissue triggers rapid aphid birth spikes, heavily worsening infestations.



Granules



Liquid



Spray