

# Horticultural Oil



Oils have been used in gardening for centuries to control difficult insects and mites on fruit trees, shade trees, roses and other ornamental plants. Most oils work the same way, by smothering harmful insects, insect eggs and diseases like powdery mildew. Traditionally, oils have been applied during the winter while plants are dormant, but modern oils like Neem oil can be applied any time of year. Horticultural oils are very safe and easy to use and many are approved for organic gardening. Whether you spray during dormancy or later, the steps are the same.



Just mix the oil with water according to the directions on the label in a hose end sprayer. Then, spray as much of the plant as you can. Coverage is important because the oil works on contact, so try to cover the plant as completely as possible.

## Oil Precautions

- Don't apply oil if it's too hot (over 90°) or too cold (under 40°). In extreme temperatures, plants can be stressed and might be damaged by oil.
- Apply in the morning or the evening so the plant is out of the direct afternoon sun. The rays of the sun can be magnified by the oil and burn the plant.
- Don't apply before a rain or snow that will wash the oil off or strong wind that could blow it around.
- Test-spray a small portion of the plant to make sure the foliage won't be damaged.

## Oil Sensitive Plants

These plants don't do well being sprayed by oils. Avoid letting oil spray drift on to them, too.

Black Walnut  
Douglas Fir  
Junipers  
Maples  
Red Bud

Cryptomeria  
Hickories  
Cedars  
Japanese Maples  
Smoketree

Here at O'Toole's, we recommend these two horticultural oils:

### Bonide All Season Spray Oil

All Season is a petroleum based paraffinic oil that can be sprayed while plants are dormant or just after they've started budding to control overwintering eggs of red spiders, scale insects, aphids, bud moths, leaf roller, red bug, codling moth, blister mites, galls, whitefly, mealy bugs and other insects.



### Neem Oil

Neem oil is organic horticultural oil made from extract from the Neem tree of India. It can be sprayed anytime during the growing season. It controls insects and mites as well as common fungus problems like powdery mildew, rust and blight. Neem Concentrate is certified by OMRI for organic gardening.

