



Some insect is eating this rhododendron? What is it and what do I do about it?



CLIENT HAS INSECT EATING NOTCHES IN RHODODENDRON

The Client has called in and described the appearance of her chewed rhododendrons.

2 photos were emailed and the notches in the leaves will help you determine what insect is eating the edges.

Your Tasks:

- 1) Identify the likely insect. Use any resources but check your guess with WSU fact sheets, websites, and publications.
- 2) Based on your suspected I.D., what do you tell the client?

Can you proceed with mitigation advice without a photo of the insect? If not, how can you get a photo when she has not seen the insect (how to collect the insect)?

If you think you have the correct I.D., what are the damage issues to be discussed-

a) Describe the potential severity of the damage (i.e., Can this feeding kill the plant if not stopped? Will this continue year after year?) Find this for both the adult insect vs the larvae.

b) What is the control for the adult, for the larvae?

c) When is the control to be applied? Are there cultural controls vs a chemical treatment? Which would you recommend and how would you explain its use?

d) If the plant is severely damaged and she just wishes to replace it, can you make suggestions or direct her to a list of less susceptible rhododendrons?

- 3) FOR BREAKOUT ROOM: Take notes on the sites you visited to get the answers to the above questions. In the breakout room, share with your group what you found and where. Were some sites great vs not helpful?

Identification is only the beginning, but knowing where to find the **best** descriptions of the insect stages, when to apply and what to apply to stop the damage, and what information you can send with the client is the MG part of the job. Share what you found.