

Hosta Leaf Nematodes

The photos below show the typical pattern of leaf nematode damage.

This damage usually does not appear until July or, in some years, early August.

Note the pattern of damage is confined to areas on the leaf between veins.



Treatment

There is a new organic product that has been proven to be 100% effective in the treatment of Hosta Foliar Nematodes. This product is called NemaKill. It is a compound made of cinnamon oil, clove oil, and thyme oil in a highly soluble suspension.

This is the only product recommended for garden use by the recently published findings of the AHS funded study at the University of Tennessee under the direction of Dr. Parwinder Grewel. CIHS has contributed to the funding of this project.

NemaKill should be applied as a foliar and soil spray at the rate of .5 fluid ounces per gallon of water. That is the equivalent of one tablespoon per gallon of water. Foliage should be sprayed either in the morning or evening to avoid the heat and sunlight of mid-day. Foliage should be fully covered by the spray, and the ground under and surrounding the plant should also be sprayed.

Following treatment, Dr. Grewel found zero nematodes in the soil after 42 days. The number of nematodes found in leaf samples following treatment, 24 hours later, were also zero.

The most important point in using this treatment method is that it is an organic chemical that has low toxicity. As with all chemical applications, this product should not be sprayed on people or animals. Pets should be kept away from treated areas for 24 hours, as a precaution.

Information compiled by Barry R. Ankney, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener. Photos provided courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden, University of Arkansas Extension, and Hosta Library.org. Information on NemaKill is from ExcelAg Corp. Dr. Grewel's findings were published in the *Hosta Journal*, Vol 46, No. 1, Spring, 2015.



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