

# MIGHTY MUNCHERS IN THE GARDEN

Gardeners are loving this warm weather and so are the garden pests! A combination of cool weather and heavy rains have plants in many gardens stressed, making them even more susceptible to insects and diseases. Here are some mighty munchers we're seeing this week in the garden, and some tips for controlling them



## Slugs

Slugs love moisture! If you start seeing holes in your plants that resemble the image shown, it's the first sign of slugs in the garden. Natural deterrents include coffee grinds and eggshells, but they do not get rid of the slugs. **Safer's Slug and Snail Killer** is very effective, without harming pets or birds. Alternately, Slug Traps can be buried into the garden, attracting and killing slugs before they ravage the garden.

## Willow Leaf Blotch Miner

Leaf Miner larvae live and feed between the epidermal layers of a leaf. The willow miner's larvae eat the soft, green tissue between the upper and lower leaf. Laurel leaf willow is almost exclusively infested with this insect, but other species may be attacked. The miner forms ugly black brown blotches on nearly every leaf of the plant (see photo). If the dried, paper-like surface is pulled apart, a central row of fine black debris will be noted.

Damage is cosmetic; the willow will not die from feeding. Though chemicals offer very little control, plants can be sprayed with Horticultural Oil next April to smother overwintering eggs on branches.



## Aphids

They are back for a second big show, but we're ready! Summer is an important time of year to check all of your plants closely for these garden pests; they love to hide along stems and under leaves in clusters. Aphids can be hosed off or treated with **Safer's End All** or **Doktor Doom House and Garden** spray. If treating food crops such as Rhubarb, use **Doktor Doom's Botanics** spray.

## Leafhopper

Look out Virginia Creeper and Grapes! Without thorough fall cleanup of leaves and an application of horticultural oil in spring, the above vines often suffer from Leafhopper infestations every summer. Take care to follow the above cleanup steps this fall and next spring, and for now keep leafhopper under control by using **Doktor Doom House and Garden** or **Ambush** on Virginia Creeper. For Grapes, choose the food grade **Doktor Doom Botanics**.

