Citrus Leafminer

Today on Gardening in a Minute: citrus leafminer.

The citrus leafminer has established and spread rapidly throughout the citrus-growing areas of Florida. Citrus leafminers attack new growth on citrus trees and other plants.

They are difficult to treat, because the eggs and larvae are inside the actual leaf tissue.

Look for squiggly lines on young leaves. When a larva hatches, it eats its way through the inside of the leaf until it finds a way out. Some leaves will curl from the damage caused by the larvae.

Homeowners with backyard citrus trees can manage their leafminer problem by using horticultural mineral oil sprays labeled for citrus. Use the oil as a preventative measure by targeting new growth. Each time you see a large amount of new leaves, consider protecting it with an application of oil.

For more information about citrus leafminers and many other gardening topics, contact your county extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.