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## **Orchid Pests**

Today on Gardening in a Minute: orchid pests.

The most common orchid pests are scale, mealy bugs, thrips, and mites, especially if you're growing orchids as houseplants.

You can treat small pest problems on some orchids by dabbing the pests with a cotton swab that's been dipped in rubbing alcohol.

For larger infestations, you can wash the plants with water or use a horticultural oil or soap spray that's safe for use on orchids. You may need to repeat this process to get the pests in check.

If the pests still won't go away, you can search for a stronger insecticide that's safe to use, though you should always start with the least toxic products first.

Remember to check your orchids often for pests so that you can take action before small problems from become bigger ones.

For more information about orchids 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.

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