

Control Canna Leaf-rollers

Systemic Insecticides

Systemic insecticides are a special group of insecticides that are taken up into the plant through its leaves or through its roots. Unlike most insecticides which remain on the foliage, systemic insecticides make the plant sap poisonous to feeding insects.



Damaged canna blades become notched and ragged. One finds robust caterpillars hidden inside leaf rolls. Canna leaf-roller caterpillars are large and clear-white at first. They become semi-pale green with age. Lesser canna leaf-roller caterpillars are smaller and yellow. Large ornate butterflies lay eggs from which they hatch. The caterpillars spin silk thread used to pull leaf edges together. They hide inside the protective tube, presumably to avoid predators.

Control canna leaf-rollers with BT insecticides, Orthene or Sevin. BT insecticides contain a bacterium (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). They are sold under trade names such as Dipel. Caterpillars ingest the bacterium and die shortly thereafter. Orthene and Sevin are chemicals that may give a quicker kill of established populations. BT-type insecticides have worked.

Source <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/>