

Cabbage White Butterflies

Pieris rapae



What they do

Three kinds of green caterpillars can eat Brassica family leaves. Most common in Perth is the soft green one, but there is also a looper type one, and less often a group of caterpillars can also cause damage.

What to look for

Monitor for caterpillars by visual inspection; collect and squash or feed to chooks. Eggs are laid on the underneath of a leaf so keep an eye out and squish them.

What attracts them in?

These insects love any plant in the Brassica family - broccoli, cauliflower, kale, cabbage, Asian vegetables.

How to control them

Beneficial insects such as ladybird, lacewing or hoverfly larvae eat the eggs.

Dipel or Success are bacterial sprays that are non-toxic to other organisms but kill caterpillars.

Floating row covers can be used to cover Brassica plants, to prevent the white butterflies landing on them and laying their eggs.

