

Red Aphids - They're Baaaaack!

Near the end of last year's summer, red aphids completely covered the stems of my false sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*). Even spraying them off with blasts of water every couple of days didn't seem to help, they just kept reappearing.

So I guess it's no surprise that they are back in full force and flourishing again this summer. Time for me to get the hose out again...maybe I'll also try some Safer's insecticidal soap, just to keep the numbers down. None of the surrounding plants (such as roses, coral bells, rose campion) seem to be affected at all.



Red Aphids on *Heliopsis helianthoides* (false sunflower) stems in my garden on June 20, 2022. The red aphids are likely one of the many aphid species in the genus *Uroleucon*. Many of the aphid species in this genus feed on plants in the Asteraceae.

-Contributed by MG Patricia Stooke