

### Larger Canna Leafroller

Have you been puzzled before when looking at your cannas and you discover rolled up leaves? Or possibly you have found circular holes chewed in a line across a leaf? If so, then you may be dealing with leafrollers.



The larger canna leafroller is a type of caterpillar that, in the adult form, is called a Brazilian skipper. Skippers are similar to butterflies, but they hold their wings differently and have hooks at the end of their antennae. The Brazilian skipper is brown, medium in size, with 5 transparent spots on the front wing and three transparent spots on the hind wing. Larger canna leafroller caterpillars have a well-developed, bi-lobed head capsule. The body is yellowish-green in color and can reach up to almost 2 inches in length.



Leafrollers consume the leaf around their leaf roll and then move to a new spot when necessary. Numerous large larvae on a plant can cause defoliation. Larvae have an interesting behavior of flicking their fecal material- frass- out of the roll so it collects on the ground instead of where they reside. Pupation takes place within the leaf roll after covering the shelter area with a thin silken mat. The pupal case is bright green with a dark spine at the end.



Leafroller control is up to the person managing the landscape. If you want your cannas to be pristine and not have any chewing insect damage, then you may want to consider control. On the other side, if you want to observe a complete insect life cycle and have Brazilian skippers, then you may need to sacrifice a bite of your foliage. Management can be as simple as squishing and/ or removing the caterpillars from the plant or you could choose a pesticide. You can use naturally-derived active ingredients such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*, spinosad, azadirachtin, pyrethrins, or synthetic pesticides. Make sure to read and follow all label instructions.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at [www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

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