

Aphids

Scientific Name: Family Aphididae

Hosts: Several hosts

Damage/symptoms: Aphids are sap-sucking insects and the saliva they release from feeding can cause discoloring, curling, distortion, or overall lack of vigor.

Life cycle: Aphids overwinter primarily in the egg stage on a particular host and reproduce in large numbers asexually (absence of males) during the growing season. Later in the summer, most aphids produce winged generations and move to a second host. In the fall, they return to their primary host, mate, and lay eggs.



Figure 1. Rose aphids. G. Csoka, HFRI, Bugwood.



Figure 2. Green peach aphids. D. Cappaert, Bugwood.



Figure 3. Black cherry aphids. W. Cranshaw, CSU, Bugwood.

Management: A strong spray of water alone can often remove aphids. Aphid populations tend to be higher in plants that are fertilized liberally with nitrogen, as this produces flushes of succulent growth. Avoid excessive watering, and use slow-release fertilizers. There are a variety of relatively low toxicity contact products including soaps, oils, and botanicals. Good coverage with contact pesticides is essential. Systemic insecticides (insecticides taken up through the root system) are particularly useful when contact is difficult and to protect new growth over time (active ingredients such as imidacloprid, dinotefuran). Broad-spectrum insecticides are generally less IPM compatible.

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