



Greenhouse & Nursery

Greenhouse Aphids

Pest Fact Sheet **10**

Introduction

Aphids (plant lice) are the most common pest in NH greenhouses. Varying in size, color, and numbers, the NH grower is constantly fighting a battle with this small insect pest.

Description

There are several species of aphids that are of economic importance to NH growers, the most common being the Green Peach Aphid, *Myzus persicae* (Sulzer). It is soft-bodied and green in color but others are red, black, and brown. These insects have sucking mouthparts and are easily distinguished by the two tube-like appendages (Cornicles) that can be found on the posterior end of the abdomen. Adults can be wingless or they can have 2 pairs of transparent wings.

Life cycle

In greenhouses, all species of aphids reproduce year 'round. Living young are produced by unmated females. It takes only 7-10 days for the nymph to develop into a reproductive female. This adds to the reproductive capability of the aphid. Each female is capable of producing fifty young. Therefore, aphid populations can explode very quickly.

Both nymphs and adults feed on the young tender parts of the plant. They insert their beaks and withdraw juices. This feeding causes distortion of leaves and bulbs.

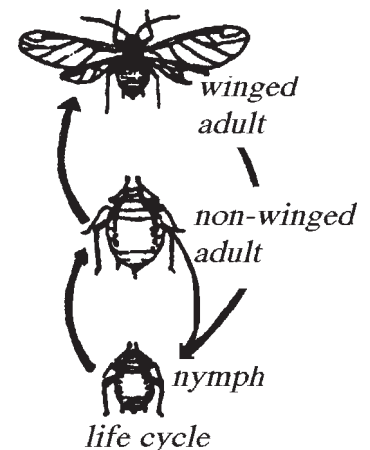
The aphid also secretes a sticky substance called "honeydew". This sweet material attracts ants and sooty fungi. The sooty fungi can discolor the plant enough to make it undesirable for sale.

Aphids are also known to be carriers of many greenhouse disease-causing organisms.

Control

Make sure that the insecticide you use is registered for use on the crop you plan to use it on. **Follow the label!** All pesticides have the potential to damage sensitive crops. To be safe, apply to a few plants first. The key to aphid control is early and frequent applications of pesticides before populations build up.

Consult your county Extension Educator (see county office telephone listing on reverse side) for specific pesticide recommendations.



Summary

Damaging stage	Nymph and adult
Plant part attacked	Young tender growth
Symptoms of damage	Leaf distortion, aphid secretions, sooty mold
Overwintering Stage:	Does not overwinter outdoors in NH
Number of generations per year	Several
Time of year when damage is done	Year 'round
Number of pesticide applications per year	Variable

UNH Cooperative Extension County Office Telephone Numbers

Belknap (603) 527-5475	Carroll (603) 539-3331	Cheshire (603) 352-4550	Coos (603) 788-4961	Grafton (603) 787-6944
Hillsborough Goffstown (603) 641-6060	Merrimack (603) 796-2151	Rockingham Brentwood, NH 03833 (603) 679-5616	Strafford (603) 749-4445	Sullivan (603) 863-9200

Stop! It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. If unsure of registration status of a particular pesticide product, contact the NH Division of Pesticide Control at (603) 271-3550. Store pesticides in their original containers in a locked cabinet or shed away from food. Dispose of unused pesticides or empty containers safely, according to NH regulations. If you suspect pesticide poisoning, call the New Hampshire Poison Control Center at 1-800-562-8236.



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