

Below are pictures and descriptions of common aphids in the AWPM region.

Russian Wheat Aphid

Characteristics

Diuraphis noxia

- Lime green in color and “spindle shape” with a waxy coating that gives it a powdery appearance
- Has short antennae and no prominent cornicles
- Mature RWA is about 1/16 of an inch long



Damage

- Can cause serious injury and yield loss even at low levels because like the greenbug, it injects chemicals that affect plant growth
- As it feeds, causes the leaf to curl, creating an enclosure protecting it from climate, natural enemies, and insecticides.
- Symptoms become visible as white, yellow, or purple longitudinal streaks depending upon weather and climate.



Our project is a collaborative effort, teaming the USDA Agricultural Research Service with growers and universities in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming.

Identifying Pests

Greenbug

Characteristics

Schizaphis graminum

- Lime-green colored
- Darker green stripe on its back
- Outer half of its antennae, outer half of its legs and the tips of its cornicles are black
- Mature greenbug measures about 1/16 inches long



Damage

- Causes yellowing of young wheat leaves
- Orange-red spots on the leaves of older plants
- Often occur in concentrated patches in the field
- Damage frequently occurs as small circular yellow patches in the field
- Can carry the virus causing Barley Yellow dwarf disease



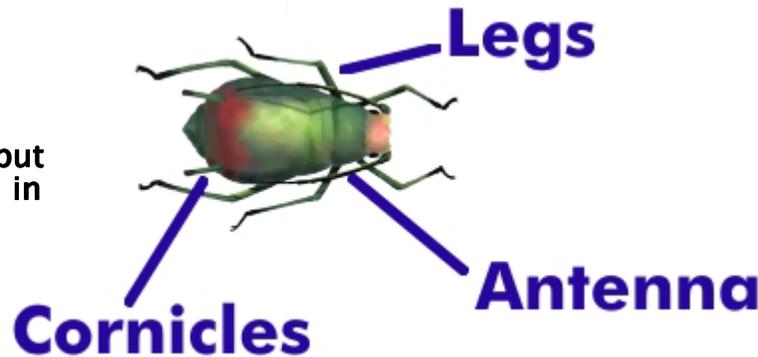
Bird Cherry Oat Aphid

Characteristics

- Olive-green color, has a red orange patch surrounding the base of each cornicle
- “Old” aphids found in winter or early spring could be totally black in color, but will give birth to mature typical aphids in the spring
- Measures about 1/16 inch long

Damage

- Can reduce forage and grain yields.
- Does not cause visible symptoms in wheat but heavy infestations will cause plants to become sticky with honeydew
- Very efficient vector of the virus that causes Barley Yellow Dwarf disease



Drawings by Justin Spurlin



Corn Leaf Aphid

Characteristics

Rhopalosiphum maidis

- Bluish-green with short black cornicles and black antennae and legs
- More commonly found in corn and sorghum, but may be found on seedling wheat in the autumn or on mature wheat late in the growing season.
- Mature corn leaf aphid is 1/16 of an inch long

Damage

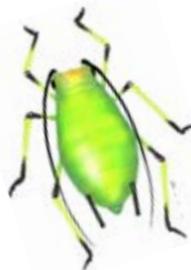
- It is a known vector of the virus that causes Barley Yellow Dwarf disease.
- Seldom reduces yields and generally does not require control
- The corn leaf aphid is not considered an economically important pest of wheat in Oklahoma.

English Grain Aphid

Characteristics

Sitobion avenae

- Larger than the greenbug and has a “spidery” appearance because of its long legs and long narrow cornicles.
- The body is lime green, but the legs and cornicles are mostly black.
- The English grain aphid is 1/8 inch long when mature.



Damage

- More common in the late growing season
- Prefers to feed on the awns and wheat heads
- Is a vector of the virus that causes Barley Yellow Dwarf disease.