

# COMMON GREENHOUSE PESTS

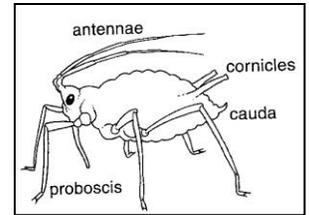
## - APHIDS -



Aphids (order Hemiptera) are in the same group as whiteflies and scale insects. They have piercing-sucking mouthparts that probe into plant cells. They feed on plant sap and excrete a sticky substance called honeydew on which black sooty mold may grow. Some species transmit viral diseases. When populations are high they cause severe aesthetic damage through excretion of honeydew. Their feeding results in curled up or deformed leaves or flower drop. Their broad host range and ability to reproduce quickly make them a significant pest in greenhouses.

### Life Cycle

Aphids have a complex life cycle. There can be winged and non-winged adults depending on temperature, day length, population level or plant quality. Life cycle duration varies among species and environmental conditions. In greenhouses, aphids reproduce without mating. Females give birth to live (already pregnant) young female clones who will give birth within a week or so (under optimal conditions) when they reach maturity. That is why populations can increase rapidly. Once the aphids are born, they go through four molts before becoming an adult each time leaving white cast skins behind.



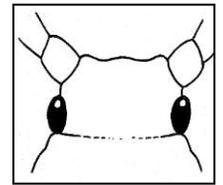
### Species Identification

#### Cotton/Melon Aphid (*Aphis gossypii*)



- **Body Color:** Light yellow to light/dark green
- **Body Length:** 0.04 – 0.07 in
- **Antennae:**  $\frac{3}{4}$  body length
- **Cornicles:** Short, convergent and black in color
- **Legs:** Short

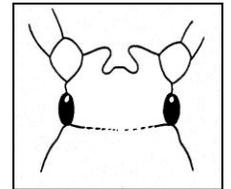
Head shapes used for species id



#### Green Peach/Peach Potato/Tobacco Aphid (*Myzus persicae*)



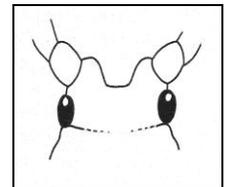
- **Body Color:** Variations of green, pink or red
- **Body Length:** 0.05 – 0.08 in
- **Antennae:** Same length as body
- **Cornicles:**  $\frac{1}{2}$  length of body, swollen at tips, light green to brown color
- **Legs:** Short



#### Potato Aphid (*Macrosiphum euphorbiae*)



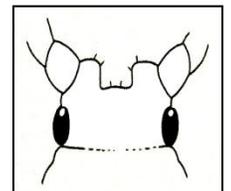
- **Body Color:** Variations of green, pink and red
- **Body Length:** 0.07 – 0.14 in
- **Antennae:**  $1 \frac{1}{4}$  length of body, clear to dark near tip
- **Cornicles:**  $\frac{1}{2}$  length of body, slight bend outwards, light brown color
- **Legs:** Long and darker at tips



#### Foxglove Aphid (*Aulacorthum solani*)



- **Body Color:** Yellow green to brown green
- **Body Length:** 0.07 to 0.12 in
- **Antennae:**  $1 \frac{1}{2}$  length of body
- **Cornicles:** Short, bulges towards tip and green color with black tip.
- \*At base on body are distinct dark spots.
- **Legs:** Long with dark bands



#### Photo Credits & References:

Scott Bauer. USDA. Available: [Forestryimages.org](http://Forestryimages.org), Whitney Cranshaw. Colorado State Univ. Available: [Forestryimages.org](http://Forestryimages.org), Koppert Biological Systems. 1992. *Knowing and Recognizing: The Biology of Glasshouse Pests and Their Natural Enemies.*, Univ. of Arizona