Green Peach Aphid - Life Stages

UF IFAS Extension
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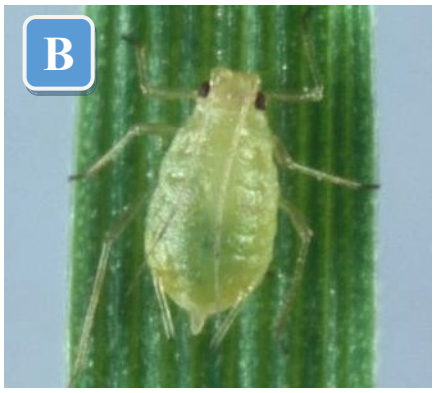
A. Alate (winged) adult
B. Apterous (non-winged) adult female
C. Nymphs
D. Adult female reproducing viviparously (live-birth)
E. Mixed stages of nymphs and apterous adult

More detailed descriptions on the reverse.



Signs & Symptoms

Above: Cast skins
Top middle: Infested tobacco leaves
Top right: Peach leaf curl
Bottom middle: Stylet
Bottom right: Damaged plum leaves from feeding

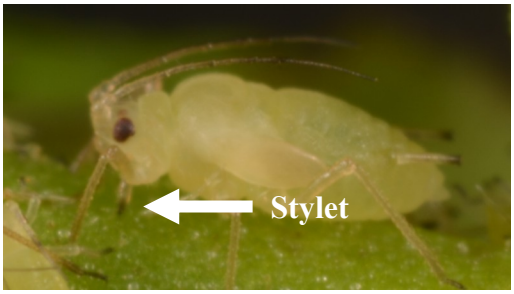


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Photo Credits: A, B, C, E, and Stylet - Lyle Buss, University of Florida | Peach leaf curl - Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University (Bugwood.org) | D and tobacco infestation - David Jones, University of Georgia (Bugwood.org)| Plum leaf damage - Eugene E. Nelson (Bugwood.org)| Cast skins - Jim Baker, North Carolina State University (Bugwood.org)

Green Peach Aphid, *Myzus persicae* (Sulzer)

General Morphology: *What does it look like?*

Adults may be alate (winged) or non and are 1.7-2mm long. Both forms have a green/yellow abdomen. Alate aphids have a black head and thorax. Elliptical eggs are green/yellow at first but darken before hatching. **Note:** eggs are not produced in FL or the tropics, but are deposited in temperate zones instead. Juveniles are initially green but turn more yellow with age. They look nearly identical to the non-winged adult, only smaller. Two spine-like structures called cornicles are at the end of the abdomen (a key feature of aphids).

General Biology: *What is its life cycle?*

1. Alate female gives live birth (viviparous) to non-winged egg-laying (oviparous) females.
2. Alate males mate with the oviparous females which then deposit 4 to 13 eggs near the buds of the host plant.
3. Nymphs will molt every 2 days on average until 4 instars (life stages) are complete.
4. Some adult females will develop a pinkish hue and then give birth to alate forms (this switch in form increases at high population density).
5. Alate adults fly off to establish new colonies.

Pest Host Range: *Where is it found?*

This is a popular summer pest on many fruit, vegetable, and ornamental crops. Although oviparous females prefer trees of the genus *Prunus* (peaches, plums, apricots, etc.) at temperate latitudes, viviparous females have a much wider host range.

Natural Enemies: *Predators & Parasitoids*

The primary natural enemy of aphids is the adult lady beetle as well as its larval stage. Other general aphid predators include lacewing larvae, flower or syrphid flies, parasitoid wasps, and pathogenic fungi.

Signs & Symptoms: *What type of damage does it cause?*

- ❑ Extended infestation of Green Peach Aphids causes significant crop yield reduction.
- ❑ Aphid feeding compromises the plant's structural integrity and young plants may often experience water stress and premature wilting.
- ❑ Additional symptoms which may also result are distorted and curled leaves, chlorotic yellow spots, stunted growth, and malformed fruit.
- ❑ Over 100 viruses are vectored by these pests, a few common viruses are beet western yellows virus (BWYV), mosaic viruses, potato leaf roll virus, and potato virus Y.

For more information on Green Peach Aphid, visit:

- **UF Department of Entomology and Nematology Featured Creatures**— http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/aphid/green_peach_aphid.htm