

SCOUTING FOR APHIDS

Aphids are small, pear-shaped, soft-bodied insects. They are often pale green, but colour may vary from black to red. Aphids feed by piercing plant tissue and sucking out juices, primarily from shoots and leaves. Feeding damage may lead to wilting or leaf distortion.



Prevalence:

- High populations develop in warm and humid conditions
- Feed on a variety of host plants

When and how to scout:

- Time of scouting depends on the crop – scout soybeans in July and August; sample flax in the full bloom and green boll stages; begin scouting cereals in June until the soft dough stage; monitor field peas at the beginning of flowering

How to identify:

- A pair of short, tube-like projections near the rear of the abdomen
- Long antennae and slender legs
- May be winged or wingless, 1 to 3 mm long
- Often feed in groups

Spray thresholds:

- Economic thresholds vary greatly by crop:
 - Field peas: 2 to 3 aphids per 8-inch plant tip
 - Soybeans: 250 per plant and the population still increasing
 - Barley, wheat and oats: 12 to 15 aphids per stem prior to soft dough stage

BENEFICIALS

BENEFICIAL INSECTS THAT HELP TO CONTROL APHIDS



THIRTEENSPOTTED LADY BEETLE

How to identify:

- Adults are oval and somewhat flattened, red to orange. Pronotum (shield over thorax between head and wing covers) is mostly black with red along edges. Each wing cover has six spots, with one central spot at the base of the pronotum.
- Larvae are black with white markings.

How they help with control:

- Thirteenspotted lady beetle and others such as sevenspotted lady beetle and harlequin lady beetle feed on aphids.
- Adults of the thirteenspotted lady beetle each consumed between 110 and 160 aphids on average in 24 hours, depending on the species of aphid they were feeding on (Malyk, Robinson).

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LACEWINGS

How to identify:

- Adults are green, with wing veins that look like netting, and gold eyes.
- Larvae are alligator-like in general shape, cream coloured with brown markings and sickle-shaped mandibles, and long bristles coming out from the sides.

How they help with control:

- Eat aphids, thrips, mites, leafhopper eggs, Colorado potato beetle eggs and larvae, and diamondback moth eggs, larvae and cocoons
- Developing lacewing larvae eat 100 to 600 aphids



Photo courtesy K. Schulz

DAMSEL BUG

How to identify:

- Long and slender
- Enlarged front legs

How they help with control:

- Eat aphids, moth eggs, small caterpillars, leafhoppers, mites, lygus bug nymphs
- A laboratory study showed an average of 131 eggs or 95 larvae of diamondback moth were killed by a single of female adult in 24 hours at 24°C (Ma, Keller, Ren).

Other Beneficials:

- Assassin Bug
- Syrphid Fly
- Big Eyed Bugs
- Parasitic Wasps



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