

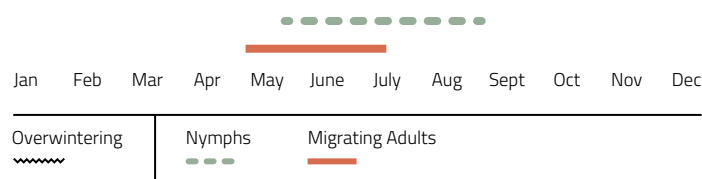


English grain aphid – adult, nymph

Tyler Wist, AAFC

## Aphid, English grain

*Sitobion (Macrosiphum) avenae* (Fabricius)



### Hosts

Wheat, barley, oats, rye, canaryseed.

### Identification

**ADULTS:** 1.5–2 mm long, bright green to yellowish-green to reddish-brown with long black legs and cornicles; antennae are as long as or longer than its body.

**MATURE NYMPHS:** Similar appearance to adults but smaller.

### Life Cycle

Not known to overwinter in Canadian prairies; blow in from U.S. Several nymphal generations are produced asexually until late summer. Populations die off in the fall.

### Feeding Damage

**ADULTS AND NYMPHS:** They are very efficient vectors of barley yellow dwarf virus. Feed on leaves of winter cereals in the fall; in the spring colonize leaves then move to the heads to feed on developing kernels, causing some to shrivel. Populations drop quickly as heads mature.

### Similar Species

See greenbug (p. 70).

### Monitoring/Scouting

Prior to the soft dough stage, count the number of aphids present on each of 20 randomly selected tillers at 5 sites across a zigzag transect of the field. Calculate the average number/tiller. In canaryseed, the head should be bent and closely inspected for aphids hiding inside along the small stem.

### Economic Threshold

**SMALL GRAINS:** 12–15 aphids/stem prior to the soft dough stage.

**CANARYSEED:** A nominal threshold of 10–20 aphids on 50% of the stems prior to the soft dough stage.

### Management Options

**BIOLOGICAL:** Similar to other aphid pests, several species of parasitoids (e.g. *Aphidius avenaphis* (Fitch) (p. 129), *A. ervi* Halida (p. 129), *A. Smithi* Sharma et Subba Rao (p. 129)), predators (especially lady beetles (p. 116), but also green lacewings (p. 139) and snakeflies (p. 140)), and fungal pathogens attack this aphid.

**CULTURAL:** Specific cultural methods have not been developed; see also IPM section (p. 3).

**CHEMICAL:** Apply products least toxic to natural enemies if treatments are required.



# Field Crop and Forage Pests and their Natural Enemies in Western Canada:

Identification and Management





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1. Pea leaf weevil (*Sitona lineatus*) and leaf damage - Jonathon Williams, AAFC
2. *Pteromalus puparum* parasitizing an imported cabbage worm cocoon (*Pieris rapae*) - T. Haye, CABI
3. Lacewing (*Chrysopa* sp.) adult - John Gavloski, Manitoba Ministry of Agriculture
4. Grasshopper - Jesse MacDonald, AAFC



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