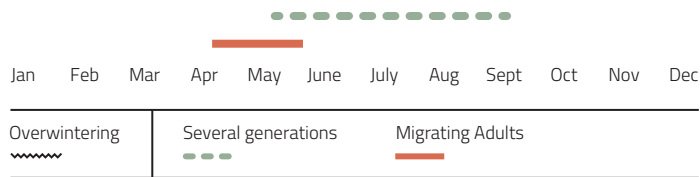




Turnip aphid – adult; bloated, tan mummified aphid (wasp parasitoid); nymph
 Alton N. Sparks, Jr., University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Aphid, turnip

Lipaphis erysimi (Kaltenbach)



Hosts

Canola, turnips, other cruciferous plants

Identification

ADULTS: 1.4-2.4 mm long, yellowish to olive green body sometimes with waxy dusting, dark bars on abdomen; winged adults have dusky wing veins.

MATURE NYMPHS: Similar appearance to adults but smaller.

Life Cycle

Mated females migrate up from southern U.S. each spring and colonize host crops on which several generations (4-6 days/generation) are produced during the season before fall frosts kill them off. Winged females will move to alternate hosts to establish new colonies when colonies get overcrowded or food quality declines. Several generations per year.

Feeding Damage

ADULTS AND NYMPHS: Canola is most sensitive to aphid damage during bud formation through to late flowering. Dense colonies start on growing tips and move onto developing buds and flowers where the pests suck up plant fluids, resulting in reduced pod set, pod fill, and seed quality. Plants under moisture stress suffer greater damage.

Similar Species

Green peach aphid (p. 61) and cabbage aphid (*Brevicoryne brassicae* (Linnaeus)) can also be present. The latter species is gray-green in colour with a waxy covering and very short cornicles which are hard to see.

Monitoring/Scouting

When canola starts to form buds, examine 20 plants at each of 5 areas in the crop following a zigzag pattern beginning from one side. Record the number of infested tips.

Economic Threshold

Control if densities exceed 25 aphids/10 cm shoot tip after flowering on 10-20% of examined stems.

Management Options

BIOLOGICAL: Several species of predators (green lacewing (p. 139), snakefly (p. 140)) and parasitoids (*Aphidius smithi* Sharma et Subba Rao (p. 129)) as well as pathogenic fungi are capable of controlling populations.

CULTURAL: Implement early control of weed hosts and volunteer canola where aphids can build up. Sow crops early to enable plants to begin flowering before aphid numbers peak.

CHEMICAL: Insecticides are available for application as warranted.



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Photo Credits:

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



**Prepared for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
by Hugh Philip, IPM 2 GO Consulting Service.**

Field Crop and Forage Pests and their Natural Enemies in Western Canada:
Identification and Management Field Guide

Publication history:

- 2015 - 1st publication
- 2018 - 2nd publication, expanded

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Electronic version available at www.publications.gc.ca

Catalogue No. A59-23/2018E-PDF

ISBN 978-0-660-25561-3

AAFC No. 12766E

This publication may be cited as follows:

Philip, H., B.A. Mori and K.D. Floate. 2018. Field crop and forage pests and their natural enemies in Western Canada: Identification and management field guide. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatoon, SK.

Paru également en français sous le titre Guide d'identification des ravageurs des grandes cultures et des cultures fourragères et de leurs ennemis naturels et mesures de lutte applicables à l'Ouest canadien

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