Aphid Pests of Strawberry, Cane Fruit and Bush Fruit

Glasshouse and Potato Aphid (*Aulacorthum solani*)

Pest of: Strawberry

Description: Yellowish green. Long antennae. 2-3 mm. Occurs throughout the year on protected crops.

Damage: Minimal damage, not considered harmful in most circumstances.[1,2]

Potato Aphid (*Macrosiphum euphorbiae*)

Pest of: Strawberry, Blueberry, occasionally Raspberry.

Description: A yellowish green or pink long-legged aphid, eyes reddish, 1.7-3.4 mm long. Feeds at new growth sites and underside of leaves. Reproduces throughout the year on strawberry in suitable conditions. Populations increase rapidly in spring on young foliage. Winged forms appear in late April and disperse to other host plants.

Damage: Little direct damage but honeydew production can facilitate mould growth and skin casts can stick to fruit. Heavy infestation may cause plant weakening.[1,2]

Permanent Blackberry Aphid (*Aphis ruborum)*

Pest of: Blackberry, occasionally Strawberry

Description: Pale yellowish to dark green. 1.5-2.5 mm. Found on the underside of leaves and shoot tips throughout the summer. 0.8-1.0 mm whitish, wingless forms occur singularly on the underside of leaves and on flowers/developing fruit. Overwinter as eggs.

Damage: Slight leaf curling, but damage is otherwise mild. [1]

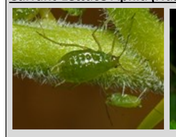
Scarce Blackberry Aphid (*Macrosiphum funestum*)

Pest of: Blackberry

Description: Dull green or reddish. 1.9-4 mm. Very long dark siphunculi, very long legs and antennae.

Damage: Little to no effect on cultivated Blackberry[1]

Currant-Lettuce Aphid (*Nasonovia ribisnigri)*



Pest of: Gooseberry, Blackcurrant, Redcurrant

Description: Light to dark green, shiny. 1.3-2.7 mm long. Overwinters as eggs at the base of buds on gooseberry bushes. Colonies develop at tips of young shoots, becoming noticeable in late April-early May. Winged adults occur in late May or June and disperse to summer hosts (e.g. lettuce), return to gooseberry in autumn.

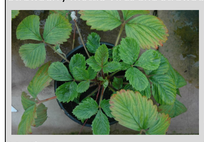
Damage: On gooseberry: slight leaf curl at shoot tips, large colonies may reduce growth and the distance between nodes. Vector of Gooseberry Vein Banding Virus.[1,4]

Strawberry Aphid (*Chaetosiphon fragaefolii*)

Pest of: Strawberry

Description: Whitish-green, red eyes. 0.9-1.8 mm. The body is covered with fine hairs with swollen ends (visible using a hand lens). Primarily feeds on underside of leaves. Wingless form breeds asexually throughout year except in cold conditions. Winged forms: May/June then again in October to December.[1]

Damage: Suck sap and produce honeydew (making leaves and fruit sticky) on which black sooty mould will grow. No direct leaf damage. Vector of Strawberry Crinkle, Strawberry Mild Yellow-edge Virus, Strawberry Mottle Virus and Strawberry Vein Banding Virus.[1, 2]



Mottle Virus

Vein banding virus

Mild yellow-edge virus

Note these pictures may need permission– © Gerard Jongedijk Naktuinbouw NL

Violet Aphid (*Myzus ornatus)*

Pest of: Strawberry

Description: Pale yellow or green, oval, abdomen has dark green or brown markings. Live singularly on leaves, no dense colonies. 1-1.7 mm. Reproduces asexually throughout year.

Damage: Honeydew accumulation to which skin casts and mould sticks. Vector of Strawberry Crinkle Virus. [1]

Crinkle virus. © Gerard Jongedijk Naktuinbouw, NL

Large Blackberry Aphid (*Amphorophora rubi*)

Pest of: Blackberry

Description: Pale to yellow green, shiny, feeds on underside of leaves. Only found on blackberry. Very similar to Large Raspberry Aphid.

Damage: No data on damage.[1]

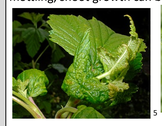
Currant-Sowthistle Aphid (*Hyperomyzus lactucae)*

© Roger Umpelby

Pest of: Blackcurrant, occasionally Red, and Whitecurrant

Description: Green. Antennae grey at tip and short. 2-2.7 mm. Overwinter as eggs, hatch in March/early April. Infest leaf buds first, then the flower buds and remain there until the late grape stage. Colonies then infest shoot tips. The third generation of adults is winged and migrates to another host during the summer, winged females return to the currant bush in autumn and produce egg-laying females, eggs are laid on bud axis.

Damage: Infestations in the spring cause leaves to curl downwards and develop yellow mottling, shoot growth can be stunted.



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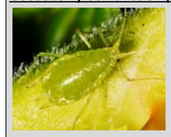
Gooseberry-Sowthistle Aphid (*Hyperomyzus pallidus*)



Pest of: Gooseberry

Description: Light green, elongate and pale antennae. 2.1-3 mm long.
Eggs deposited on shoots before winter, hatch in spring. Colonies develop on the underside of leaves particularly around young shoots. Winged forms appear in late spring/early summer, migrate to *Sonchus arvensis* to breed and then return to Gooseberry in autumn.

Damage: Causes stunting and leaf curl when infesting young shoots.[1]

Melon-Cotton Aphid (*Aphis gossypii*)

Pest of: Strawberry, Blueberry

Description: Colour variable: yellowish green, dark green or greenish black. Reproduces asexually, winged and wingless adults produced over the summer. 1.5-1.8 mm long.

Damage: Large quantities of honeydew can facilitate the growth of sooty moulds and cause skin casts to stick to the plant and fruit, reducing photosynthesis and contaminating fruit.[1] It is also a vector of Strawberry Mottle and Strawberry Mild Yellow-edge Viruses. [2] (See above for images of virus damage)

Large Raspberry Aphid (*Amphorophora idaei*)

Pest of: Raspberry

Description: 2.6-4.1 mm long, pale to yellow green, shiny, long legs and antennae. Normally live in small colonies. Initially feed at tips of leaf buds, later live on underside of leaf. Eggs hatch in early March. Winged forms (including males) appear in June/July. Egg laying sexual females appear in October. Eggs are laid on canes.

Damage: Direct feeding damage is minimal but it is a vector of Black Raspberry Necrosis Virus, Raspberry Leaf Mottle Virus, Raspberry Leaf Spot Virus and Rubus Yellow Net Virus. Susceptibility to viruses varies by cultivar. [1]

Black Necrosis Virus

Leaf Spot Virus (© – James Hutton Institute, JHI)

Yellow Net Virus

Permanent Currant Aphid (*Aphis schneideri*)

© Roger Umpelby

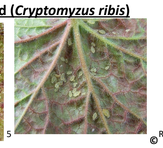
Pest of: Currants, particularly Black and Red

Description: Dark blue-green with bluish-white waxy covering. 1.2-2.2 mm. Overwinter as eggs on the shoots, hatch in early spring, wingless forms feed at flower trusses, later colonies develop at young shoot tips. In June winged forms occur and spread to various currant species where they produce wingless forms which then produce sexual forms in the autumn.

Damage: Severe stunting and distortion of shoots, shorter internodes. Tight bunches of distorted leaves, leaves bend downwards at point of petiole attachment.

© Roger Umpelby

Redcurrant Blister Aphid (*Cryptomyzus ribis*)



© Roger Umpelby

Pest of: Redcurrant, Whitecurrant, occasionally Blackcurrant

Description: Creamish white to pale yellowish green, shiny , plump. 1.2-2.5 mm long. Overwinter as eggs on the shoots of currant, hatch in the spring and form colonies on the underside of leaves. In summer winged forms are produced and migrate to other hosts, they return later in the year.

Damage: Distinctive red-purple blisters on the leaves, heavy infestation will cause considerable discolouration and distortion of leaves. Honeydew accumulation will facilitate the development of black sooty moulds.

Blueberry Aphid (*Ericaphis scammelli*)

Image © Andrew Barclay Berry Gardens

Image above of Scorch Virus damage

Pest of: Blueberry

Description: Pale yellow-green. Overwinter as eggs, primarily feed on young shoots. Reproduce asexually until September/October when sexual adults are produced and eggs laid. Population peaks in June/July.

Damage: Honeydew can facilitate the growth of sooty moulds and interfere with photosynthesis, reduce fruit quality. Vector of Blueberry Scorch Virus. [5]

Shallot Aphid (*Myzus ascalonicus*)

Pest of: Strawberry

Description: Light brown/yellowish brown/greenish brown, shiny. 1.1-2.2 mm long. Breeds asexually over winter. Winged form migrates to strawberry in autumn, wingless colonies develop and breed throughout winter/spring. Winged form develops in May or early June and migrates to summer hosts. Strawberry colonies will then die out.

Damage: Causes severe stunting of spring growth, petiole shortening and leaves become curled and twisted. Blossom trusses are stunted, fruit will remain small, low yield and often unmarketable. [1]

Small Raspberry Aphid (*Aphis idaei*)

Raspberry Vein Chlorosis (© JHI)

Pest of: Raspberry

Description: Light or yellowish green, covered in waxy powder. 1.5-2 mm long. Overwinter as eggs, hatch in March and form dense colonies on blossom trusses and lateral shoots. Two wingless generations followed by winged forms which spread on the host and to new plants. Progeny of winged forms are pale cream in colour and live singularly on the underside of leaves. Wingless sexual forms occur from October, followed by egg-laying females.

Damage: Little direct feeding damage, spring infestations cause leaf curl. Vector of Raspberry Vein Chlorosis Virus.

Blackberry/Cereal Aphid (*Sitobion fragariae)*

Pest of: Blackberry

Description: Green, shiny. 2-3 mm. Eggs overwinter on blackberry canes, wingless form hatches in February/March. Large colonies on leaves of fruiting canes. Winged form occurs in May/June, colonise grasses where they breed and later return to blackberry in autumn. Eggs laid in November/December.

Damage: Large colonies in the spring will cause severe leaf curl and cause substantial yield reduction.

Blackcurrant Aphid (*Cryptomyzus galeopsidis*)

Pest of: Blackcurrant, occasionally Gooseberry, and Redcurrant

Description: Colour varies from creamish-white or yellowish-green to green. Slight dorsal stripe. 1.3-2.6 mm. Can be found throughout the year, often has summer migration to secondary hosts.

Damage: Causes leaves to become crinkled and yellowish, leaves at the tips of shoots may turn brown and die. If unmanaged fruit and leaves will be contaminated by honeydew by June.

Gooseberry Aphid (*Aphis grossulariae*)

Pest of: Gooseberry, occasionally Currants

Description: Dark green to greyish green, mealy, waxy coating. 1.5-2.2 mm. Eggs overwinter on stems, hatch in March/early April, wingless forms feed on young shoots, forms dense colonies. Breed throughout the summer, winged forms migrate to secondary hosts, return to gooseberry in autumn.

Damage: Leaf curl and tufts of distorted leaves, shoots will be twisted and stunted. Shorter internodes. Virus vector.[1]

References

1: 'Pests of Fruit Crops: A Colour Handbook' Alford. D (2007) *Academic Press*. ISBN-13: 978-0-12-373676-5, ISBN-10: 0-12-373676-5, 2: AHDB Crop walkers Guide: Strawberry, 3: AHDB Crop walkers Guide: Cane Fruit, 4: AHDB Crop walkers Guide: Bush Fruit, 5: www.influentialpoints.com 6:https://bladmineerders.nl/parasites/animalia/arthropoda/insecta/hemiptera/sternorrhyncha/aphidoidea/aphididae/aphidinae/macrosiphini/cryptomyzus/cryptomyzus-galeopsidis/ 6: https://bladmineerders.nl/parasites/animalia/arthropoda/insecta/hemiptera/sternorrhyncha/aphidoidea/aphididae/aphidinae/macrosiphini/cryptomyzus/cryptomyzus-galeopsidis/