Aphid
**APHID**

**FAMILY:** Aphididae  
**ORDER:** Homoptera (means “same” wings)

**IDENTIFICATION CLUES**
- very small, 1/8 inch or less
- pear-shaped body, yellow, green or black
- transparent wings or wingless
- long proboscis for piercing and sucking plant juices
- two tubercles (tubes) project from the back of the abdomen

**Where to Look**
Along plant stems and on leaves. Aphids usually prefer young tender plants or plant parts, and they can often be found in lush or weedy areas.

**What It Eats.**
Plant juices, particularly stem and twig sap. Aphids take in so much liquid that they excrete sugar in their feces called honeydew. They are considered garden pests.

**Who Eats It?**
Almost all predatory insects and many arthropods will feed on aphids. However, some insects (ants) protect aphids because they use the aphids’ honeydew as an energy-rich food.

**Life Cycle**
INCOMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS
The life cycle of aphids is complex and variable. Some species produce many generations of females without fertilization. In some the eggs hatch inside the female.

**Role in the Ecosystem**
Plays an important role in the food chain as a honeydew producer. Many other insects depend on the honeydew as a food source.

**Did You Know…**
Aphids produce many generations on a single plant. However, when the plant food quality declines, the next generation of aphids are born with wings. This allows them to fly away to find a new plant to eat.