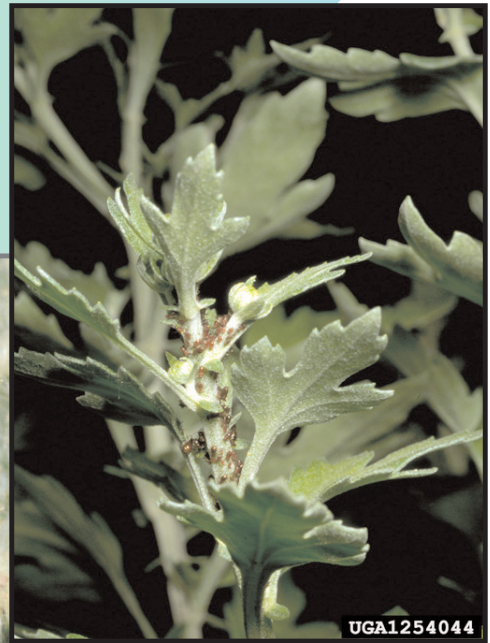


# Aphid



UGA1234094



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GARDEN EARTH  
NATURALIST  
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

# 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.



### 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.

### 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.



### 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.

### 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.