

Aphids

WHAT:

Aphids are sap-sucking insects with stylus mouth parts that secrete saliva into, and suck sap from, punctured vessels. The family of insects they belong to contains the most plant virus vectors, and they are among the most destructive insects to cultivated plants. Aphids can be green, yellow, red, brown or black, while some secrete a waxy or woolly substance on their bodies that can make them easy to identify.

WHERE:

Many aphid species are monophagous, that is, they feed on only one plant species. Others feed on hundreds of plant species across several families. Almost every plant has one or more species of aphid that feed on it.

SYMPTOMS:

Some species of aphid inject a toxin into plants distorting foliage, some cause gall formation; large populations can result in yellow leaves and stunted shoots, but the most general symptoms for aphid populations are physically seeing them on the plant or tree, or the development of a sooty mold fungus. Aphids deposit a honeydew which sooty mold fungi grow on, leaving plant leaves black.

HOW:

Consult with one of our Urban Forestry Experts to properly identify the insect and discover whether or not a Sustainable Pest Management program should be in place.



Many aphids develop wings at some point during their life cycle



Sooty mold growing on honeydew exudate



Ash (leaf curling) aphid



Giant conifer aphid



Rose aphid



Crapemyrtle aphid



Olceander aphid