

COMMON APHID IDENTIFICATION IN TEXAS GRAINS

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Instructions: Using a hand lens or other magnification device, look at the aphids in question and answer the following questions to narrow down the identification.

What is the host plant?

Other

Flip card over
 for wheat,
 barley and oats.

Sorghum

Is the aphid's head dark colored?

No

Yes

CORN LEAF APHID

The entire length of the legs and cornicles on this aphid are also dark. This aphid tends to feed inside the whorl. They will feed in the tassels of corn as well.



Are the tips of the antennae and tarsi black?

YELLOW SUGARCANE APHID

No

Yes



These aphids are lemon yellow and have hair all over their body.

To see the hairs, use a hand lens or other magnifying device.

Are the cornicles black?

SUGARCANE APHID

Yes

No

GREENBUG APHID



General body color of this aphid can vary somewhat depending on the season.

It is best to use the diagnostics found in this key to identify them.

This aphid has a very distinct green stripe on its back in adults and older aphids.

Younger aphids can be easily confused with the SCA so look for adults.



What is the host plant?

Wheat & Barley

Oats

Does the aphid have cornicles?

RUSSIAN WHEAT APHID



No

Yes

Has short antennae and lacks green stripe on back of abdomen. The body is elongated and almost tear-drop shaped.



Body shape

Is the aphid's head dark colored?

No

Yes

CORN LEAF APHID



The entire length of the legs and cornicles on this aphid are also dark. They will feed in the tassels of corn as well.

Does abdomen have an apparent green stripe?

GREENBUG APHID



Yes

No

Tips of antennae and feet are black. Cornicles are the same color as the body.

Younger aphids can be easily confused with other aphids, so look for adults.

BIRD CHERRY-OAT APHID



Wingless adults have a reddish orange area across the abdomen between the cornicles.

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For more information visit <https://goo.gl/g5x5yq>

Basic Aphid Anatomy

