

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Cowpea Aphid

Scientific Name: *Aphis craccivora*

Order and Family: Hemiptera, Aphididae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		Slate gray coloring
Adult	1.5-2.5mm	Shiny, black coloring with white and black legs
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Piercing-sucking mouthparts for feeding on plant juices.

Host plant/s: Alfalfa and other legume crops.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Adults and larvae feed on tender new growth on the terminal ends of plants. They feed in clusters and when numbers are high the plant will show signs of yellowing with stunted growth. This is exacerbated by the aphids' toxic saliva and the ability to vector several viruses including alfalfa mosaic virus. Infested plants will be covered in excessive honeydew that causes sooty mold, which can disrupt photosynthesis.

References:

Whitworth, R. J., & Ahmad, A. (2009). Cowpea aphid. *Kansas Crop Pests*. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service.

Godfrey, L. D., Natwick, E. C., Goodell, P. B., Long, R. F., & Barlow, V. M. (2017). Cowpea aphid. *UC Pest Management Guidelines*. University of California Statewide IPM Program.