

Pest Profile



Photo credit: [Merle Shepard, Gerald R. Carner, and P.A.C. Ooi](#), Insects and their Natural Enemies Associated with Vegetables and Soybean in Southeast Asia, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Corn leaf aphid

Scientific Name: *Rhopalosiphum maidis*

Order and Family: Hemiptera: Aphididae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		The adult females do not lay eggs, but give birth to live nymphs.
Larva/Nymph	Less than 2.0 mm long	Similar to the wingless adult but smaller.
Adult	2.0 mm long	Wingless adults are oval, pale bluish-green with black antennae and legs and two dark bands on the head. The abdomen has a row of dark spots along the side and the body often has a powdery coating. The winged form is about the same size with a pair of transparent wings.
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Piercing-sucking

Host plant/s: Corn leaf aphid prefers barley, sorghum, and corn, and also infests millet, broomcorn, sugarcane, Sudan grass, and many other wild and cultivated grasses.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Corn leaf aphids suck the sap from the plant's upper leaves and the corn tassels. Infested tassels become covered with honeydew, which likely affects pollination, and heavily infested plants may wilt and turn brown. Sooty fungus appears a few weeks after infestation.

References:

Corn Leaf Aphid. (n.d.). Retrieved from:

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