

# Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

**Common Name:** Potato Leafhopper

**Scientific Name:** *Empoasca fabae*

**Order and Family:** Hemiptera, Cicadellidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	1mm	White in color, small, slender; 2-3 eggs laid in plant stems or veins of leaf; females can lay 200 eggs total; eggs hatch in 9-11 days; 1-3 generations.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	1.5-3mm	Yellow to a pale green, wingless; five instars; when disturbed move sideways quickly similar to a crab.
<b>Adult</b>	3mm	Wedge-shaped widest at head; bright lime green body color with white markings; transparent wings.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Nymph and Adult: Piercing-sucking

**Host plant/s:** The potato leafhopper is a pest of vegetables particularly potatoes, alfalfa, and snap beans. They can also damage a large number of other plants including: apples, grapes, celery, clover, beans, peanuts, and woody ornamentals.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** The adults and nymphs are found on the undersides of leaves sucking on the juices of the leaves with their piercing mouthparts. Feeding causes hopperburn to plants by the injection of a toxic substance and the removal of fluids. The injury starts as a v-shaped yellowing of the leaf margins followed by the leaves gradually turning brown. The end result is defoliation of the plant as the leaves die. Damage caused from feeding can result in a variety of problems to different types of plants such as browning on potato margins, v-shaped yellow wedge on

alfalfa leaflets, curling leaves, stunted growth of plants, and lower yields of the plant. Young plants are the most vulnerable to damage.

### **References:**

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