

Pest Profile



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

Common Name: Western aster root aphid

Scientific Name: *Pemphigus populivenae*

Order and Family: Hemiptera, Aphididae

Size and Appearance:

	Adult	Egg	Nymph
Length (mm)	>1 mm		
Appearance	Oval, soft bodies with paired cornicles and long, slender mouthparts	Tiny green eggs are laid in the bark cracks of <i>Populus</i> trees	Similar in appearance to adults but more transparent with thinner bodies

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

Host plant/s: Aspen, cottonwood and other *Populus* trees during summer, many herbaceous perennials including Aster during the summer.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Aphids have slender mouthparts which they use to pierce plant cells and suck out the contents. Aster root aphids feed on the plant roots during the summer, which weakens the plant, causing wilt and death. Heavy infestations around the crown of the plant can cause the top to tear off. Root aphids produce a waxy, honeydew substance on the roots as they feed. In the fall, the aphids migrate to trees in the genus *Populus* where they cause galls in the leaf petioles. While they cause premature leaf drop, these aphids are not considered an economic pest to foresters as their feeding occurs late in the season and causes no further damage.

References:

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