

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Common Name: Greenhouse whitefly

Scientific Name: *Trialeurodes vaporariorum*

Order and Family: Hemiptera, Aleyrodidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	0.2mm	Eggs are oblong; pale green to purple in color; eggs inserted in lower leaf in a circle or semi-circle pattern; hatch in 5-7 days.
Larva/Nymph		First instar nymphs (crawler) are tiny, yellow and have red eyes; the first instar crawler stage has legs and antennae and will crawl around short distances, then find a place to settle; the second and third instar nymphs are flattened, oval shaped and immobile, and are scale-like; older nymphs have waxy filaments along sides; 4 nymphal stages or instars.
Adult	1.5mm	Yellowish colored body; have four white powdery looking wings; hold wings out flat and steeped like a roof; from above wings have a triangular look; have waxy substance on wings.
Pupa (if applicable)	0.75mm	Last of four nymphal stages sometimes called pupa; flattened oval shaped pupa with long waxy hairs along its body and on the edge; pale green in color; if parasitized black; leaves clear pupal skin after adult emerges; not a true pupa, whiteflies have incomplete metamorphosis; the pupa is a non-feeding stage.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Nymph: piercing-sucking; Adult: piercing-sucking

Host plant/s: Wide host range including most vegetables and herbaceous ornamentals. Hosts include begonia, bean, lettuce, melon, potato, coleus, strawberry, grape, aster, rose, poinsettia, cineraria, chrysanthemum, cucumber, hibiscus, geranium, and tomato.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Both nymphs and adults feed by sucking out juices using their piercing-sucking mouthparts. They are usually found on the undersides of leaves. Adults like to feed on fresh new growth of plants. Damage from feeding makes the leaves turn yellow and can cause them to drop. Plants may be stunted and less reproductive. Whiteflies secrete a sugary substance called honeydew and black sooty mold can grow on the leaves that are covered in honeydew. Whiteflies can also transmit several plant viruses to plants from their feeding.

References:

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