

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Lyle Buss, University of Florida, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Citrus Whitefly

Scientific Name: *Dialeurodes citri*

Order and Family: Hemiptera, Aleyrodidae

Size and Appearance:

	Adult	Egg	Larva/Nymph	Pupae (if applicable)
Length (mm)	3.2 mm (with wings expanded)			
Appearance	- Adult is tiny, mealy-white insects. - They have two pairs of white wings which fold flat over the body; wings are covered with powder-like wax.	- Smooth yellow eggs.	- Nymphs are oval, thin, flat (scale-like object) and translucent. - Clear to orange-greenish in color.	- Pupae are similar to the nymph but are slightly thicker and more opaque than the nymph stage, and eye spots of the developing adult may show through the pupal skin.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Sucking, both nymphs and adults.

Host plant/s: Mainly citrus, but the following are also food plants: Allamanda, banana shrub, Boston ivy, cape jasmine, chinaberry, crape myrtle, coffee, English ivy, Ficus macrophylla, gardenia, green ash, jasmine, laurel cherry, lilac, mock olive, myrtle, pear, privet, osage orange, persimmon, pomegranate, Portugal cherry, prickly ash, smilax, tree of heaven, trumpet vine, umbrella tree, water oak, and devilwood or wild olive.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Whitefly nymphs and adults injure crops by attaching themselves to the underside of leaves where they feed on plant juices, thus removing nutrients from the plant. The feeding also results in excretions of honeydew which fall on the leaves below which leads to “sooty mold” growing and covering leaves to the point that the plant can no longer function properly. Leaves may become discolored and fall from the plant and plants may also be stunted.

References:

Thomas, R., Howard, V. (2013, November). *Citrus whitefly - *Dialeurodes citri**. Retrieved from http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/citrus/citrus_whitefly.htm

Kenneth, A. (1995, February). *Insect Pests of Vegetables*. Retrieved from http://ipm.ncsu.edu/vegetables/pests_vegetables.html