

# Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

**Common Name:** Rosy Apple Aphid

**Scientific Name:** *Dysaphis plantaginea*

**Order and Family:** Hemiptera, Aphididae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	0.4 mm	The egg is oval and pale green in color when it is first laid. As the egg develops, it turns shiny black in color. They can also reproduce asexually.
<b>Nymph</b>		The nymphs are purple or rosy brown in color with a powdery white covering and long cornicles. Nymphs that develop on plantains are a lemon yellow in color and lack the white covering.
<b>Adult</b>	2-3 mm	The wingless adults that develops on apple are a rosy purple with a powdery white covering, while the wingless adults that develop on plantains are a lime yellow. The winged adult that migrates from apple to plantain are a brownish-green to black.

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Adults and nymphs have piercing-sucking mouthparts.

**Host/s:** Plant hosts for the adults and nymphs are apple, pear and narrow-leaved plantain.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** The feeding by the adult and nymph rosy apple aphid causes leaves to curl and deform shoots. Since the adult and nymph aphid's saliva is toxic, feeding on leaves of fruit clusters can result in stunted and distorted fruit. This can result in small and misshapen apples. Rosy apple aphid feeding can also lead to reduction in root growth and photosynthesis. Feeding aphids also produce honeydew that can drip on fruit and foliage. Sooty mold (*Fumago vagaus*) can grow on the honeydew as well. Damage by aphid feeding is more severe in younger trees, and if shoots are severely distorted in young plants, they can be permanently altered.

**References:**

Beers, E. H., Willett, M. J. (2007) *Rosy Apple Aphid*. Retrieved from: <http://treefruit.wsu.edu/crop-protection/opm/rosy-apple-aphid/>

Bessin, R. (2003) *ENTFACT-211: Rosy Apple Aphid*. Retrieved from: <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef211>

Cranshaw, W. (2004) *Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Walgenbach, J. (2015) *Rosy Apple Aphid*. Retrieved from: <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/rosy-apple-aphid>