

**Sugarbeet Insects  
How to Control Them**

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## SUGARBEEET INSECTS: How To Control Them

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Insects attack sugarbeets from planting time to harvest. Some eat the seed and roots; some eat the leaves; others suck juice from the plant.

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Most of these insects may be controlled through changes in cultural practices or by using insecticide. Because no one insecticide will control all the insects, you first must identify the insect damaging your sugarbeets. Injury may be confined to roots, or to crowns and foliage, or it may be hard to detect.

### INJURY CONFINED TO ROOTS, AND PESTS RESPONSIBLE

Nature of injury	Name of pest and page on which it is discussed
Beets are retarded, off-color, light or yellowish green.	Sugarbeet root aphid. See p. 11
Roots contain a moldlike substance that covers yellow-white wingless aphids up to 1/4 inch long and a smaller number of darker, winged forms. They suck sap from beet roots.	Sugarbeet root aphid. See p. 11
Beet stands are reduced; plants are stunted, wilting, and dying.	Wireworm. See p. 5
Around roots are white maggots about 1/4 inch long. They have no legs, eyes, or distinct heads. They taper like a horn and come to a sharp point at the front. Beet roots may be riddled with burrows and surface scars.	Wireworm. See p. 5
Seed is destroyed during germination; taproots of small plants are cut off, or roots of older beets are badly scarred by slender, tough, smooth, white worms varying from white or yellowish to dark brown, and ranging from 1/4 to 1 1/2 inches in length.	Wireworm. See p. 5
Tap roots of small beets are cut off; larger beets have big side holes. Damage is by soft, robust, dirty-white to grayish, U-shaped grubs that are up to 1 1/2 inches long. Grubs have 6 legs, shiny-brown heads, and blackish abdomens or hind parts.	White grubs. See p. 5
Plants are stunted or dying; small roots are eaten off by active, small, fragile, white, caterpillar-like creatures. They are up to 1/4 inch long and have 5 to 12 or more pairs of legs.	Symphyla. See p. 5

## INJURY CONFINED TO CROWNS AND FOLIAGE, AND PESTS RESPONSIBLE

Nature of injury

Name of pest and page on which it is discussed

<p>Corydodon and small beetles are badly eaten or destroyed. Corydodon or first true larvae have small shell holes. Injury is completely eaten by tiny, brown, shiny-headed, or striped jumping beetles that are up to <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> inch long.</p>	<p>Flint beetles. See p. 6</p>
<p>Whitefly sugarbeet tops near thinning time may be partially or completely cut off at the crown by smooth, hairless, fat, soft-bodied greenish-brooding worms. They are <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> to 2 inches long and are found near the freshly-cut beets just under the soil surface.</p>	<p>Cutworms. See p. 6</p>
<p>Thirty-white larvae, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> to <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> inch long, have a distinct greenish tinge. They are found just under soil surface in silken tubing 2 to 6 inches long radiating out from the crown of wilted or cut-off beets.</p>	<p>Sugarbeet borer. See p. 7</p>
<p>From thinning time to late season, beet foliage is eaten away, skeletonized, or matted.</p>	<p>Beet webworm. See p. 7</p>
<p>Leaves skeletonized or ragged and webbed by active greenish worms that have light and dark longitudinal stripes running the length of the body. They are <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> to <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> inches long. When disturbed, they drop and hang from a silk thread or retreat into silken tunnels.</p>	<p>Beet webworm. See p. 7</p>
<p>The same type of injury as for the beet webworm is caused by pale greenish-yellow to black-yellow larvae. They are slightly hairy, have numerous black dots, and are a little larger than the beet webworm.</p>	<p>Garden webworm. See p. 7</p>
<p>Blisters like or blasted spots and irregular tunnels between the leaf surfaces are made by maggots that eat the interior of the leaf. They are <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> inch long.</p>	<p>Spinach leaf miner. See p. 8</p>
<p>Foliage eaten by thick-bodied caterpillars that are <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> inches long. They crawl over the ground in masses and consume all green plants in their path.</p>	<p>Armyworms. See p. 8</p>
<p>Beets bordering alfalfa are eaten by light-green, dark-olive-green, or pale-greenish-brown larvae. They are up to <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> inches long, taper toward the head, and move in a looping manner.</p>	<p>Alfalfa looper. See p. 8</p>
<p>Beet foliage is eaten in late season by large, slender, jumping or flying insects, 1 to 2 inches long. They usually move into the beets when other crops are harvested.</p>	<p>Grasshoppers. See p. 9</p>
<p>Beet leaves are eaten by ash-gray, black, margined, spotted, or striped slender beetles. They are <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> to over 1 inch long, 4 times as long as wide, and have conspicuous heads and necks, long legs, and antennae.</p>	<p>Blister beetles. See p. 9</p>
<p>Foliage is eaten by dull-black, oblong-oval-shaped beetles, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> inch long, and their shiny-black, flat, wedge-shaped young.</p>	<p>Carrion beetles. See p. 9</p>
<p>Beets are damaged in late season by large caterpillars that are up to 2 inches long. They are covered by long reddish-brown or black hairs and have sides distinctly marked with yellowish spots.</p>	<p>Silk-moth caterpillars. See p. 10</p>

## INJURY HARD TO DETECT, AND PESTS RESPONSIBLE

Description of pest

Name of pest and page on which it is discussed

<p>Damage caused by sucking insects. Trap should be watched for the following insects to prevent damage before nymphs show.</p> <p>Roots contain a milky substance that covers yellow-white wingless aphids up to <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> inch long and a smaller number of darker winged forms. They suck sap from beet roots.</p> <p>Shy, angular, flatish, pale-green to reddish or dark brown sucking bugs, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> inch long, are difficult to see on the green plants. Some times leaves are wilted.</p> <p>Large numbers of a grayish-brown, narrow-bodied insect, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> inch long, that has transparent wings lying flat on its back, are sometimes clustered on the plants.</p> <p>Small, greenish or yellowish, slender, wedge-shaped, active jumping and flying insects, less than <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> inch long, cause leaves to curl from within they transmit.</p> <p>Soft-bodied, slow-moving, pale-yellow-green to black winged and wingless insects often feeding in colonies are usually on underside of leaves.</p> <p>They almost invisible, 8-legged creatures, cause considerable fine webbing on under side of leaves, and leaves are whitish to reddish brown, usually starts along the edge of the field or in small spots.</p>	<p>Sugarbeet root aphid. See p. 11</p> <p>Lygids bugs. See p. 11</p> <p>False chinch bugs. See p. 11</p> <p>Beet leafhopper. See p. 12</p> <p>Spider mites. See p. 14</p> <p>Foliage-feeding aphids. See p. 13</p>
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## DESCRIPTIONS OF PESTS

Sugarbeet insects can be divided into three groups—those that feed on seed and roots, those that feed on leaves, and those that suck plant juices.

### Those That Feed on Seed and Roots

Several insects and closely related pests live in the soil and attack the germinating seed and roots of sugarbeets. Most important are the sugarbeet root maggot, wireworms, white grubs, and symphylans.

The *sugarbeet root maggot* is the larval stage of a shiny-black fly about one-fourth inch long. Its transparent wings have a small dark area on the front margins one-third

of the distance from the base of the wing.

The adults lay slender, white, slightly curved eggs one-fourth inch under the soil surface around the beets. The eggs hatch in a few days into white maggots without legs, eyes, or distinct heads. These maggots are larger at the rear, taper like a horn, and come to a sharp point at the front (fig. 1).

When fall grown, the maggots are about one-fourth to one-third inch long, tough skinned, and firm to the touch; it is in this stage that they pass the winter. The maggots are found on roots of wilting or dying beets (fig. 2). They feed by rasping the beet root, often cutting off the



Figure 1.—Young sugarcane roots showing root maggots and damage they cause. Note the scorched leaves. PN-4823



Figure 2.—Leaves of young wilted beet pulled to show the maggots feeding on them. PN-4822

tap and feeder roots. Sometimes 80 to 90 percent of the beets are killed.

Wireworms may be found feeding on beet roots. These hard, wirelike worms are the young of several species of slender, hard-shelled, tan to dark-brown beetles that are one-third to one-half inch long.

These beetles often are referred to as click beetles or snapping beetles, because of their habit of snapping the forepart of the body to right themselves when on their back or when held between the fingers. The female beetle lays 200 to 500 pearly white eggs in the soil. Eggs hatch in about 2 weeks. The newly hatched larvae are pure white and have dark jaws; they turn yellowish to dark brown with age. Newly hatched larvae are one-sixteenth inch long; full-grown larvae may be 1½ inches long. (Fig. 3) They live in the soil 2 to 6 years before pupating and changing to adults.

Wireworms may reduce plant stands by destroying seed during germination or tiny plants soon after they emerge. In midseason, they cause plants to wilt by cutting off the taproots, which reduces yields. Older roots are not so severely damaged by their feeding, but root-rotting organisms may enter wounds and cause heavy losses.

White grubs are the larvae of June beetles. These soft, robust, dirty-white to grayish, U-shaped grubs (Fig. 4) have six legs, shiny-brown heads, and enlarged blackish abdomens, or hind parts. The grubs vary in length from ¼ to 1½ inches. They live 1 to 4 years in the soil, the length of time depending on the species, and then pupate and emerge as beetles during May and June.

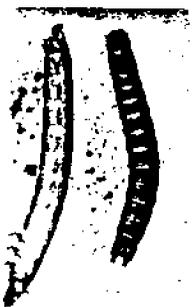


Figure 3.—Full-grown larvae of the dryland wireworm. PN-4824

The adults are sluglike, hard-shelled, brown, robust beetles that are one-half to three-fourths inch long. They fly clumsily about early in the evening and feed at night on the foliage of many plants.

The grubs feed on the roots of beets, often cutting off the taproots just after thinning, which causes the beet plants to wilt and sometimes die. This insect prefers grass and pasture land for egg laying and grub development, so sugarbeets should not be planted on newly plowed land.

Garden symphylans are active, small, fragile, whitish, centipede-like creatures (Fig. 5) that inhabit the soil. Newly hatched larvae are white and have six pairs of legs, but they become darker as they grow older. Each time they molt, they add an additional pair of legs until they have 12 or more. Adults have 15 body segments, well-developed antennae, and chewing mouthparts. They are about one-fourth inch long.

Adults move about in the soil through cracks and earthenworm holes, feeding on the roots of plants. All stages may be found at the same time. They are difficult to control, because only about 50 percent of the total population can be found in the

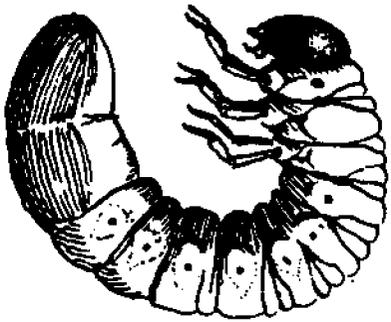


Figure 4.—White grub.

upper 6 inches of soil at any one time.

#### These That Feed On Leaves

More sugarcane pests feed on foliage than on roots. One or another of these pests feed on the foliage from the time seed sprouts until harvest. Most important of the chewing insects are flea beetles, cutworms, the sugarcane crown borer, webworms, the spinach leaf miner, armyworms, the alfalfa looper, grasshoppers, blister beetles, carrion beetles, and the salt-marsh caterpillar.

Flea beetles are tiny, brown to shiny-black or striped, jumping beetles. Adults range from one-sixteenth to one-fifth inch long. They may feed on emerging plants under the soil surface, (fig. 6) but usually they feed on the cotyledon and first true leaves, causing a shoot-hole ap-

pearance. Heavy infestations may kill the plants.

Most beetles overwinter as adults under leaves or other plant residue along fence rows and ditchbanks, although some species overwinter in the soil. These beetles emerge on the first warm days of spring and feed on almost any green plant, from which they migrate to beetfields. Often, this migration starts before the beetles are up. They do most damage in cold springs when the beetles grow slowly.

Cutworms all have similar feeding habits. Several varieties found on sugarcane feed at night on the beet plants, at or just below the soil surface, and rest in the daytime in a curled-up position just below the soil surface near the plant on which they had recently fed. The first evidence of injury is the freshly cut, wilted tops of beets.

The larvae are smooth, hairless, fat, soft, bodied, and greasy looking. They remain motionless when disturbed. Their color varies from gray or reddish to almost black. Full-grown larvae may be 2 inches long. They pupate in the soil and emerge as medium-sized, dusky-brown or gray moths that fly at night and lay their eggs in loose soil.

The most important sugarcane cutworms are the army, black, spotted, glassy, pale western, red-

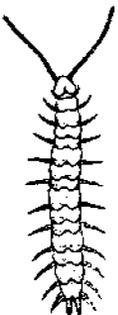


Figure 5.—Symphylet.



Figure 6.—Black flea beetles feeding on sugarcane leaf.

backed, and variegated cutworms. They usually do most damage in beetfields that follow pasture, alfalfa, or clover crops.

The sugarcane crown borer may damage beets about thinning time, or soon after. The dirty-white larvae have a distinct greenish tinge. They are found in silken tubes 2 to 6 inches long radiating out from the beet crown just under the soil surface. The larvae remain in the tubes during the day and emerge at night to feed on beet crowns, often cutting them off. The tubes often can be removed with the larvae inside. When disturbed, they throw themselves about violently and can move forward or backward with equal ease. No satisfactory control is known.

Full-grown larvae are three-fourths inch long. Running lengthwise of the body in the middle of the back is a reddish-brown, broken line; on each side are four broken lines of the same color, but paler. Several dark spots are on each segment, each bearing a fine bristle.

Two or more generations occur a year, the first being the most damage. They overwinter in the pupa stage in the soil and emerge in the late spring as small, dark-gray moths that have a wingspread of about three-fourths inch. The forewings have two characteristic undulating, transverse white lines near the outer margin, and have a red spot usually located near the base. No satisfactory chemical control is known for the larvae.

Webworms usually attack sugarcane around midseason. The most important of several species are the beet webworm and the garden webworm. They are voracious feeders, causing considerable damage to the beet foliage in a few days.

The newly hatched beet webworms are cream colored and about one-sixteenth inch long. They turn dark green in a few days. They feed mostly on the underside of the leaves. When disturbed, the webworms drop and hang on fine threads.

Full-grown webworms (fig. 7) are olive green, and have light and dark longitudinal stripes running the length of the body. At first, they eat small patches from the underside of the leaves, but seldom eat through. As they grow larger, webworms eat the foliage, leaving only the leaf veins (fig. 8).

They pupate in the soil and emerge as grayish-brown moths about 1 inch across. At rest, they are triangular in shape. When disturbed during the day, they make short, rapid, zigzag flights and alight on some hidden part of the foliage.

The garden webworm color varies from pale and greenish yellow to



Figure 7.—Full-green beetle webworm and pupa.

dark yellow. It is slightly hairy and has numerous black dots. It does more web spinning than the beet webworm. Otherwise, the habits are similar. The moth of this species is reddish brown to dark gray, and it is a little smaller than the beet webworm. Both species fly at night and may be attracted to lights in large numbers. The garden webworm spins a silken tube within which it remains most of the time, thus making control more difficult.

The *sprinkleg fly miner* is another early to midseason beet pest. Since this is a small insect living between the lower and upper surfaces of the leaves, it does not ordinarily cause serious damage. At first, the winding mines appear as whitish or brownish lines, but as the maggots grow they form large irregular-shaped blotches or blisters. Loss of foliage from heavy infestations may retard growth of the plant and reduce yield. When mature, maggots drop to the ground and pupate in the last larval skin, which is known as the puparium. Adults emerge as slender, gray flies; the front of the head is silvery white. Several generations occur in a year, and they overwinter in puparia under trash and in the soil.

*Armyworms* are any of several

species of thick-bodied caterpillars that crawl over the ground in masses, consuming all green plants in their path. The most common species attacking sugarbeets are the beet armyworm, fall armyworm, yellow-striped armyworm, (fig. 9) zebra caterpillar, and the army cutworm.

Armyworms belong to the same family as cutworms; the adults are heavy-bodied, night-flying moths, or millers that are attracted to lights. They have a wingspread of about 1½ inches. The color of the different kinds of moths varies from a dark-gray ground color through grayish to reddish brown. The forewings are generally marked with darker bands and spots, which give a mottled appearance. Full-grown armyworms are nearly naked, smooth, striped caterpillars about 1½ inches long.



Figure 8.—Single beet plant severely damaged by beetle webworm attack.

The *alfalfa looper* is primarily an alfalfa and clover feeder, but it often migrates to beets planted adjacent to such fields after the hay has been cut. It causes serious foliage damage in a short period of time.



Figure 9.—Larva of yellow-striped armyworm.

Young loopers are light green, but turn dark olive green to pale greenish brown. They taper toward the head. They have two pairs of abdominal legs just back of the middle and one pair at the rear end, allowing them to crawl in a looping manner.

When full grown, loopers are 1 to 1½ inches long. At this stage, they tie the several leaves together, in which they spin loose white cocoons. These transform into adult moths in about 10 days; two or more generations occur each year.

*Grasshoppers* are common pests of cultivated crops and occasionally injure sugarbeets, especially in late summer or early fall when other crops are maturing and the migrant grasshoppers are looking for more succulent food. In some areas, greatest injury occurs in late spring or early summer.

Several species of grasshoppers feed on sugarbeets; examples are the clear-winged, differential, lesser migratory, red-legged, (fig. 10) and two-striped grasshoppers. All have about the same life history.

Only one generation occurs in a year. In late summer and early fall, females lay eggs in the soil at depths up to 3 inches along ditchbanks, fence rows, or waste areas. They do not use barren land, such as summer fallow, or irrigated and cultivated fields for egg laying. Eggs hatch in April, May, and June, the time varying with the weather and the species; and the grasshoppers feed for 60 to 90 days.

*Blister beetles* of several species are general feeders and occasionally attack sugarbeets. The most important species are the ash-gray, black, margined, spotted, and striped blister beetles.

They are slender beetles about four times as long as wide, have conspicuous heads and necks, long legs and antennae, and rather soft wing covers, which do not completely cover the tip of the abdomen. They may invade sugarbeet fields by either flying or crawling. Often, they swarm into beetchilds and strip the plants of their leaves in a very short time, then depart as suddenly as they came (fig. 11).

The adult beetle is the only harmful stage of this insect. The females lay 50 to 300 eggs in cavities in the ground. The eggs hatch into larvae that feed mostly on grasshopper eggs.

*Carrier beetles* of two similar species feed on sugarbeets. The



Figure 10.—The red-legged grasshopper.



FIG. 1056  
 Figure 11.—Aph-groy blight beetles on sugar-beets.

adult is a uniformly dull black, oblong-oval-shaped beetle having elevated ridges running lengthwise on its wing covers.

About thinning time, the beetles emerge from overwintering quarters along field margins, ditchbanks, roadsides, and waste areas, enter the beetfields, and feed on the small plants. Soon after they begin feeding, females lay their eggs in the soil. The eggs hatch in 5 days, and the young larvae emerge and start feeding on the beets.

When full grown, the larvae are shiny black, flat, and wedge shaped, and have distinct body segments. When present in large numbers, cotton beetles can do a great deal of damage in a few days. In 3 to 4

weeks after hatching, the larvae enter the soil and pupate. They overwinter as adults in the soil.

The *salt-marsh caterpillar* larva belongs to the group known as woolly bears. They are 1½ to 2 inches long when full grown. Their bodies are partly covered by long reddish-brown or black hairs that give them a woolly appearance. Their sides are distinctly marked with yellowish spots forming two broken lines.

They are general feeders, attacking many crops, including sugar-beets. They usually do not become numerous enough to cause much damage until late summer.

The salt-marsh caterpillar is the larva of a large, robust, white moth that has a wingspread of 2½ to 2½ inches. Both wings are white in the female, hindwings are orange in the male, and wing surfaces are marked with black dots. The abdomen is orange yellow, marked with a row of six black spots down the middle of the back.

The moths appear in late spring. Females lay round, pale-yellow eggs in large masses on the underside of food plant leaves. The eggs hatch in 4 or 5 days; the caterpillars mature in a month and spin thin, brownish cocoons, interwoven with their hair, under trash and dead leaves where they overwinter. One or more generations occur in a year, the number depending on the area.

#### Those That Suck Plant Juices

Many insect pests feed on sugar-beets by inserting their needlelike beaks into the tissue and sucking out the plant juices. The most important

are the sugarbeet root aphid, *lygus* bugs, the false chinch bug, the leafhopper, and foliage-feeding aphids. *Mites*, which belong to the same class as the spider, also feed on the plant juices.

The *sugarbeet root aphid* is a pale yellowish insect found on the roots surrounded by a white moldlike substance. During the summer, adults are all wingless females that give birth to living young, which mature in a couple of weeks. Several generations are produced on the sugarbeet roots each season, and aphids may be found in all sizes up to one-eighth inch long.

In the fall, winged males and females are produced. After mating, females lay eggs on cottonwood and poplar trees, on which they overwinter. This insect also passes the winter as adults on roots of sugarbeets, lettuce, dock, lambsquarter, and other plants.

The sugarbeet root aphid feeds by sucking sap from the roots. This causes leaves to become light or yellowish green, wilt, and often die. Infested beets are usually short and have many hair roots.

*Lygus* bugs are primarily seed feeders and, therefore, do not remain long in fields of beets grown for sugar. The three species of *lygus* bugs that infest beets bear a general resemblance to each other in shape, size, and color. The body is flatish, varying from five thirty-seconds to three-sixteenths inch long and about one-half as wide (fig. 12). Body colors vary in different species from pale green to reddish or dark brown.

In cold areas, *lygus* bugs overwinter as adults in grass clumps, under leaves and other trash along



FIG. 1058  
 Figure 12.—Lygus bug.

ditchbanks and fence rows, or in any place they can get protection. They are among the first insects to become active during warm days in early spring. In southern areas, they are active through the winter months. Eggs laid in the green plants soon hatch into nymphs, which somewhat resemble the adults. Several generations occur in a year.

The adults move in and out of beetfields in early spring and after each cutting of hay. Their feeding seems to be toxic, and wherever they insert their needlelike beaks, the plants bleed profusely and the cells for some distance around are killed. This later causes cavities or distorted growth.

The *false chinch bug* (fig. 13), very similar to the true chinch bug, is a grayish-brown, narrow-bodied insect about one-eighth inch long. It overwinters in litter along ditchbanks and fence rows and in waste areas as an adult or a dull-gray



Figure 13.—False chinch bug.

FN-4880

nymph, emerging in early spring to feed mostly on early-maturing weed hosts.

Like the beet leafhopper, this bug is a strong flier as an adult and moves to more succulent plants when the weed hosts start maturing. It is during this movement that false chinch bugs infest sugarbeets and other plants. They usually congregate in masses, and their feeding causes the beets to wilt and die in a short time.

The beet leafhopper (fig. 14) is an active, sun-loving, dry-climate insect. It is wedge shaped, about one-eighth inch long, and varies in color from light yellowish green in the summer to grayish brown in the fall. In flight it appears white and has been nicknamed the "whitefly."

The beet leafhopper overwinters mostly as fertilized females in desert and waste areas and feeds on mustard and other plants that germinate in the fall.

Eggs are laid inside the leaf and stem tissues of these plants. They hatch into tiny white nymphs, which turn darker and become spotted with red and brown giving the appearance of a saddle as they become

older. These nymphs develop wings about the time spring annual plants become mature, and winged adults move in search of more succulent plants, such as Russian-thistle, where they breed during the summer. In late summer and fall, they return to desert and waste areas when the summer hosts start maturing. It is during the spring movement that they infest sugarbeets and other cultivated crops.

The beet leafhopper seldom becomes numerous enough to cause damage by direct feeding, but it carries a virus that it transmits to plants, causing curly-top disease. The younger the plants at time of the movement, the more susceptible they are to the disease. Even curly-top-resistant varieties are susceptible in early stages of development. Consequently, the amount of damage the insects cause depends on the time they move, the magnitude, the duration of the movement, and the percentage carrying the virus. This virus overwinters in both the leafhopper and its host plants, and

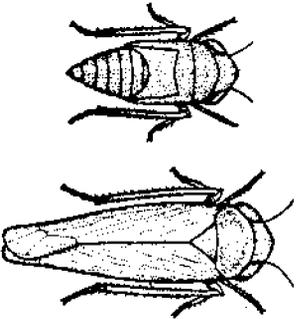


Figure 14.—Beet leafhopper nymph and adult.

the percentage varies from year to year.

Some leafhoppers feed and lay eggs on mustards and Russian thistle growing on wastelands within cultivated areas. Thus, in localized areas much can be done on a community basis by adopting practices that will lead to the replacement of weed hosts by perennial grasses, which are not breeding hosts of the insect.

Foliage-feeding aphids are soft-bodied, slow-moving, small insects about one-sixteenth inch long. They have long antennae and legs. Seen from above, they appear somewhat egg shaped, the head being at the small end. Two cornicles resembling exhaust pipes extend up but mostly back from the rear end. Both winged and wingless forms occur. When folded over the back, the wings are roof shaped.

During the summer months, all the adults are females, and they give birth to living young, which themselves give birth to living young in 2 weeks. Consequently, they build up large populations in a short time unless checked by their natural enemies or insecticides.

In addition to the considerable damage done by large numbers of aphids sucking out the plant juices, they also transmit viruses of two destructive yellows diseases to sugarbeets. The winged forms spread the disease more widely than do the wingless ones. Of several aphids that feed on beets, the green peach aphid (fig. 15) and the bean aphid are the two most important.

Examine fields closely for insect predators and parasites, as well as for evidence of fungus diseases. (Often, natural enemies will control an aphid infestation without the use of



Figure 15.—Green peach aphids on sugarbeet leaf.

FN 4881

Rotation and sanitation are good preventive measures. Continued growth of beetles on the same piece of land breeds many sugarbeet pests.

Destroy weeds growing on waste and idle land within and adjoining cultivated fields, as well as those growing in the beetfields themselves. Weeds are preferred hosts of many insects; these insects move on to beets when weeds begin maturing.

insecticides. If aphids are numerous and natural enemies are scarce, do not hesitate to apply insecticides.

*Mites* are tiny, spiderlike pests (fig. 16) that overwinter in the soil, in trash, or weeds, and in alfalfa and clover fields. In early spring, they migrate by crawling or by being blown by the wind to growing plants. A complete life cycle may be passed in 2 to 3 weeks. Thus, they have many generations each year and can build up large populations in a short time.

Infestations are usually spotted, mostly along the edge of the field, and can be recognized by the whitish or yellowish appearance of the plants, which often turn reddish

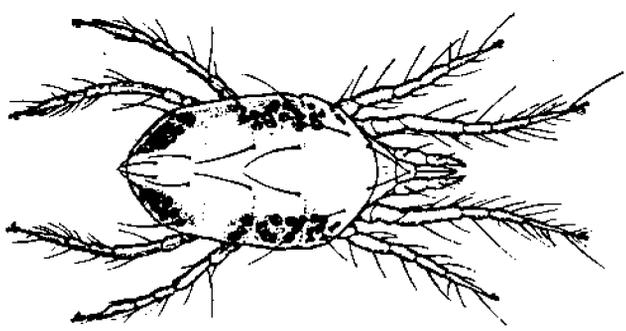


Figure 16.—Adult of the two-spotted spider mite.

brown. If you look closely, you can see tiny spiders and webbing, usually on the undersides of the leaves.

### BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Many insects are beneficial to man. Some pollinate our fruit and seed crops, some furnish us with foods, and others destroy harmful insects. Some of the beneficial insects found in beetfields are described below.

*Aphid lion* adults, about five-eighths inch long, are fragile, deli-

body fluids. They are important predators of aphids and related insects.

*Lady beetle* adults are oval-shaped, shiny, yellow to orange, and usually have black spots (fig. 17). Young are black or gray and have some orange or reddish markings. They resemble miniature alligators. Both adults and larvae feed on aphids, spider mites, insect eggs, and other small insects.

*Assassin bugs* are light brown to gray, are one-half to three-fourths inch long, and have wings lying flat on the back. They have rather long legs; their forelegs are strong and they use them for grasping and holding their prey while they suck out the body fluids (fig. 18). They feed on many different kinds of insects.

*Damsel bugs* resemble assassin bugs, but are much more slender. They are pale and gray, about three-eighths inch long. They also feed on many insects by sucking out the body fluids.

*Flower bug* or *pirate bug* adults are about one-sixteenth inch long, flat, and oval shaped. They are black and have white spots. The young (nymphs) are shaped like adults, but are amber colored. Both adults and nymphs feed on spider mites and their eggs and other small insects.

*Syrphid flies*, bright yellow and black bee-like flies, about one-fourth inch long, are often seen hovering over beet plants looking for insect infestations where they can deposit their eggs. The eggs hatch in a short time, and the young maggots, pointed at one end, probe blindly about for insects on which they feed. They prefer aphids but feed on many other insects.

*Ground beetles* are blackish, long-

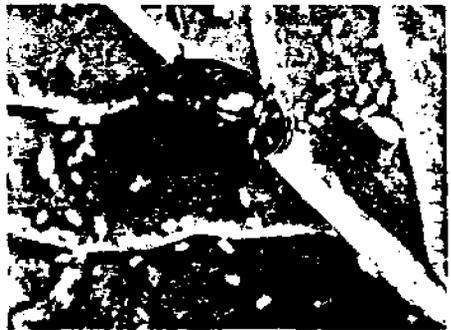


Figure 17.—Lady beetle feeding on aphid.



Figure 18.—Assassin bug.

legged beetles, broadly oval and flattened dorsally. They live in the ground, emerging at night to feed on many insects.

*Wasps* include many parasitic species that live on other insects. Tiny wasps parasitize insect eggs, larger ones parasitize small insects such as aphids, and others live on worms and caterpillars.

## CHEMICAL CONTROL

Much of the time, natural enemies of sugarcane pests keep them under control. However, at times the pest insects increase to the point that it becomes necessary to apply insecticides.

Insecticides generally are applied as granules or sprays.

Granules are purchased ready to apply. Sprays must be prepared by mixing water with dry powder (wetable or soluble) or with liquid concentrate (suspension or emulsifiable).

Equipment to apply insecticides ranges from hand dusters and sprayers to aircraft.

To get full benefit from application of insecticides, observe the following principles:

**Efficient timing.**—Apply material before damage is excessive and while the pests are young.

**Careful mixing of sprays.**—Follow recommendations and use enough, but not more. When you use wettable powders in sprays, constantly agitate them to keep the toxicant from settling to the bottom.

**Controlled dosage.**—Use recommended dosage and make sure to distribute insecticide evenly over the field. Excessive dosages are wasteful and may be harmful.

**Directed application.**—Apply material to that part of the plant where the pest is feeding or where it is most likely to come in contact with the insecticide. For cutworms, broadcast material; for foliage feeders, apply it to the foliage; for spider mites, apply to the underside of the leaves.

**Patient checking.**—Constantly

watch the crop. Many pests appear and do their damage in a short time. Some are difficult to detect. Natural enemies of some insects will, at times, do a better job than chemicals. You may or may not need to repeat insecticide applications. Some pests do not feed all the time, so it may take a day or so after treatment before chemicals will reduce the numbers of insects.

### Applying Insecticides

#### Ground Sprayers

Low-gallonage or low-pressure sprayers that apply 5 to 30 gallons of spray per acre are most commonly used. They are simple, cheap, and easy to operate. Several sprayers of this type have pumps that are attached to the tractor power take-off. Emulsion sprays are most satisfactory to use with this type of sprayer. High-gallonage or high-pressure sprayers and mist blowers may be used satisfactorily.

Spray booms should be built so they can be raised or lowered, as well as folded for transportation. Equip the boom with good spray nozzles, and keep them clean. If no provision is made for an agitator, use emulsion sprays and stir these quite often.

#### Granular Application

Granules are usually applied in bands to the row at seeding or soon after plants emerge. Since many chemicals are toxic to seeds, direct contact should be avoided when incorporating them in the soil above,

Trade names are used in this publication solely for the purpose of providing specific information. Mention of a trade name does not constitute a guarantee or warranty of the product by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or an endorsement by the Department over other products not mentioned.

below, or to the side of the seed row. Some materials may be applied safely directly in the seed furrow. Several types of distributors and incorporators are available. Follow all directions carefully.

#### Aircraft Application

Aircraft application is much faster than other means, causes no mechanical injury to the plants, and wet, irrigated fields are no problem. However, aircraft application usually is not as effective as ground application when treating for pests that feed under the leaves or deep in

the center of the foliage. If dosages are increased, be certain not to exceed maximum amounts per acre indicated on the label.

Since the common names of insecticides are not always familiar, other names and trademark names are listed below for convenience:

Common Name	Other Names and Trademarks
aldactb	Temk
cararyl	Sevin
carbophenothion	Trithion, Garrauthion, Acarathion
demeton	Systox
diazinon	Diazinon, Spectracide, Basudin
disulfoton	Diazinon, Terrax-P
fenitrothion	Dyemate
fomphos	Cyathon
malathion	Meta-Systox-R
oxydemetonmethyl	Alkron, Niram, Bialkan, F-Phiall E695
parathion, ethyl	Bialkan M, Polkol M, Metacide, Wolftox
parathion, methyl	Bialkan M, Polkol M, Thimet
phorate	D-D Mixture, Viklen-D
telone	Viklen-D
trichlorfon	Imperex, Dylax

## USE OF PESTICIDES

This publication is intended for nationwide distribution. Pesticides are registered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for countywide use unless otherwise indicated on the label.

The use of pesticides is governed by the provisions of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended. This Act is administered by EPA. According to the provisions of the Act, "It shall be unlawful for any person to use any

registered pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labeling." (Section 12 (a) (2) (G))

EPA has interpreted this Section of the Act to require that the intended use of the pesticide must be on the label of the pesticide being used or covered by a Pesticide Enforcement Policy Statement (PEPS) issued by EPA.

The optimum use of pesticides, both as to rate and frequency, may vary in different sections of the

## INSECTICIDES SUGGESTED FOR USE

INSECT	INSECTICIDE	MINIMUM DAYS TO HARVEST	FORMULATION <sup>1</sup>	Pounds active ingredient per acre unless otherwise indicated	WHEN AND HOW TO APPLY
Alfalfa looper	Parathion, ethyl	15	EC	0.5—0.8	Foliage application.
Aphids: on beet roots	No satisfactory control registered				
on beet foliage	Parathion, methyl	20	EC	0.375	Foliage application.
	Malathion	3	D, Spray	2.0	
	Demeton	20	EC	0.5	
	Diazinon	None	Spray	0.5	
	Oxydemetonmethyl	20	EC	0.375—0.75	
	Phorate	20	EC	1.0	
	Aldicarb	90	G	0.65—1.3 oz/1000 ft. row with 22 inch row.	Prior to buildup. Drill to side of row.
Armyworm	Carbaryl	14	D, Spray	2.0	Foliage application.
	Parathion, methyl	60	WP, Susp. Dust	1.0—2.0	
	Trichlorofon	20	EC	0.25—0.375	
Beet webworm	Trichlorofon	14	S, Sp.	0.5—1.0	
Blister beetles	Parathion, ethyl	1.5	EC, WP	0.5—0.8	Foliage application.
Cutworms	Parathion, methyl	20	EC	0.25—0.375	Foliage application.
	Carbaryl	14	Bait	2.0	Broadcast.
Garden Symphylan	Fonofos	--	EC	2.0—4.0	Preplant broadcast
	Parathion, ethyl	15	EC, G	5.0	
Grasshoppers	Malathion	3	EC	2.0	
	Carbaryl	7	ULV	0.6	
Leafhoppers	Parathion, methyl	20	EC	0.25—0.375	Foliage application
	Phorate	30	G	1.0 with 30" row spacing	Drill or broadcast at seeding.
	Aldicarb	90	G	2.0—3.0	Apply at planting.
	Disulfoton	30	FM, G, L	1.0 with 30" row spacing	Soil application.
Leafminer	Phorate	--	G	1.0 with 30" spacing	Apply by broadcast or drilling. Do not place in contact with seed.
	Trichlorofon	14	D, S, Sp.	1.0	Foliage application.
Lygus bugs	Parathion, methyl	20	EC	0.375	Foliage application
Spider mites	Sulfur	Safe, none	WP, D	30	On foliage as needed.
	Oxydemetonmethyl	30	EC	0.375—0.75	Foliage application.
	Carbophenothion	14	EC, Susp., WP, D	0.6—1.0	Foliage application.
	Phorate	--	G	1.0 with 30" row spacing	Apply by drilling or broadcast at seeding.
Sugarbeet Root Maggot	Aldicarb	90	G	1.5—2.0 with 22" low spacing	Apply at planting in a 2-6 inch band over seed row.
	Fonofos	--	G	1.0—1.5	Restricted to Colorado and Northwest growing area.
	Fansulfothion	--	G	1.0—2.0 with 22" row spacing.	Band application at planting.
	Phorate	--	G	1.0 with 30" row	Apply by broadcasting or drilling at planting.
	Diazinon	--	G	0.98—1.96	Apply in 5-7 inch band above seed or in furrow after seed is covered.
Sugarbeet Crown borer	No satisfactory control				
Webworms	Parathion, methyl	20	EC	0.375	Foliage application.
Wireworms	Diazinon	--	EC	4.0	Preplant broadcast soil application.
	Fonofos	--	EC, G	4.0	
	Teione	Nonfood use	Liquid	253	Preplant soil fumigation.

<sup>1</sup> EC-concentrate, D-dust, G-granules, ULV-ultra low volume, FM-fertilizer mix, E-liquid, S-solution, SP-soluble powder, Susp-suspension. The pesticides mentioned in this publication are available in several different formulations that contain varying amounts of the active ingredient. Because of the differences in active ingredient, dosage rates are not indicated. The reader is cautioned to read and follow all directions and precautions given on the label of the pesticide formulation that will be used.

The user is responsible for the proper use and storage of pesticides. Pesticides used improperly can be injurious to man, animals, and plants. Store pesticides in original containers under lock and key—out of the reach of children and animals—and away from food and feed, seed, other plant materials, and fertilizer. Follow the directions and heed all precautions on labels.

Users of this publication may also wish to consult their Cooperative Extension Service, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, or County Extension Agents for information applicable to their localities.

The pesticides mentioned in this publication are available in several different formulations that contain varying amounts of active ingredient. Because of this difference, the rates given in this publication refer to the amount of active ingredient, unless otherwise indicated. Users are reminded to convert the rate in the publication to the strength of the pesticide actually being used. For example, 1 pound of active ingredient equals 2 pounds of a 50 percent formulation.

The user is cautioned to read and follow all directions and precautions given on the label of the pesticide formulation being used.

Federal and State regulations require registration numbers on all pesticide containers. Use only pesticides that carry one of these registration numbers.

USDA publications that contain

suggestions for the use of pesticides are normally revised at 2-year intervals. If your copy is more than 2 years old, contact your Cooperative Extension Service to determine the latest pesticide recommendations.

The pesticides mentioned in this publication were federally registered for the use indicated as of the issue of this publication. The user is cautioned to determine the directions on the label or labeling prior to use of the pesticide.

After handling an insecticide, do not eat, drink, or smoke until you have washed your hands and face. Wash any exposed skin immediately after applying an insecticide.

Many insecticides, such as carbaryl, sulfur, malathion, and trichlorfon, can be used safely without special protective clothing or devices, providing they are in dilute dusts or water sprays.

Some insecticides, such as diazinon, can be absorbed directly through the skin in harmful quantities. When working with these insecticides in any form, take extra care not to let them come in contact with the skin. Wear protective clothing and respiratory devices as directed on the label.

Carbophenothion, demeton, disulfoton, and parathion, are highly toxic and may be fatal if swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin. These insecticides should be applied only by a person who is thoroughly familiar with their hazards and who will assume full responsibility for safe use and comply with all precautions on the labels. After applying parathion to the soil, keep all persons and animals off the treated area for 48 hours.