

Aphids on chilli and green pepper

Myzus persicae Green peach aphid, peach-potato aphid



Adult *M. persicae* aphids (Jim Baker, North Carolina State University, Bugwood.org)



Aphid infestation on leaf (Eugene E. Nelson, Bugwood.org)

Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>M. persicae</i> are small green aphids which feed on plant sap. These aphids can transmit plant viruses. • Use of repellent plants such as onion, garlic and marigold in alternate rows to crop. • Use of agro nets (size 400 µm) to prevent pest accessing crop seedlings, and remove at flowering stage • Conserve natural enemies (e.g. ladybird beetles, hoverflies and parasitoid wasps) by avoiding use of broad spectrum insecticides and providing suitable habitat. • Avoid high levels of nitrogen in soil, as this causes plants to become succulent and attractive to aphids. • Remove and burn crop residues immediately after harvest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start monitoring from seedling stage, look at lower leaves, stems or growing points for soft-bodied insects, found in clusters. • Check underside of leaves, shoots and stems for immobile aphids. • Look for yellowing leaves, stunted growth and honeydew on infested crops. Sooty mould may grow on the honeydew. • Look for curled, wrinkled or cupped leaves and mosaic patterns on the leaves (alternating dark and light patches) - these are symptoms of viruses that can be transmitted by the aphid • Monitor at least 3 times a week for aphids early in the morning/late in day during dry periods. • Start control measures when there is 10-20% infestation (i.e. 1-2 infested plants/10-20 plants in plots). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove and burn infested plants to help reduce population spread. • Use yellow traps (at 2 traps per 30 m² to attract and kill aphids. • Spray soap solution (potassium soaps e.g. Alata samina). Add 10-15 tablespoons of liquid soap in 16 L knapsack and spray foliage. • Spray with neem-based products and follow label instructions (e.g. Azatrol, 1.2% Azadiractin. 1 part Azatrol with 1 part water, spray at 7-10 day intervals).

Note: Pesticides may be available to control this pest. Please check with the Ministry of Agriculture in your country to find out which pesticides are registered in your country and the local restrictions for their use.