



Cornell University

**John Sanderson**

Cornell University

Email: [jps3@cornell.edu](mailto:jps3@cornell.edu)

## Aphids

Pest & Natural Enemy ID  
Greenhouse Scout School  
**Session 2:** Feb. 20, 2025



Entomology  
Research  
Laboratory

**Cheryl Frank Sullivan**

University of Vermont

Email: [cfrank@uvm.edu](mailto:cfrank@uvm.edu)



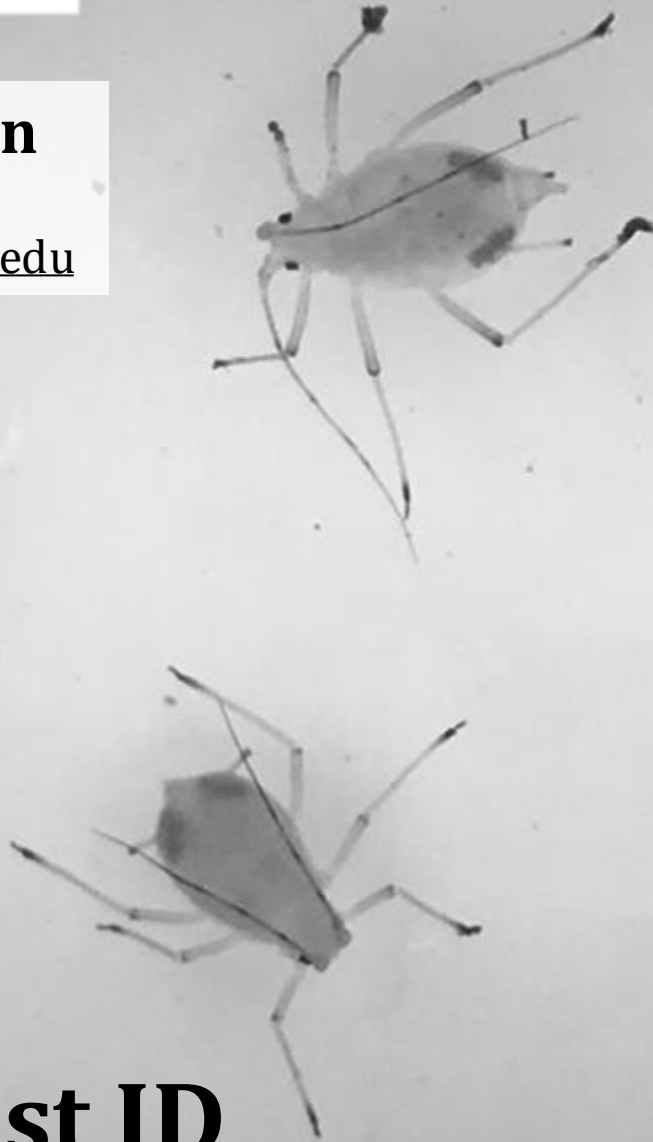


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## Part 1: Pest ID





Melon aphid  
“damage” to  
mum flower





# Aphid sticky honeydew and ugly cast skins



Dan Gilrein



Elise Lobdell



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Black sooty mold,  
cast skins can really  
make a plant ugly



Elise Lobdell



Foxglove  
aphid feeding  
causes leaf  
distortion



Photo: D. Gilrein

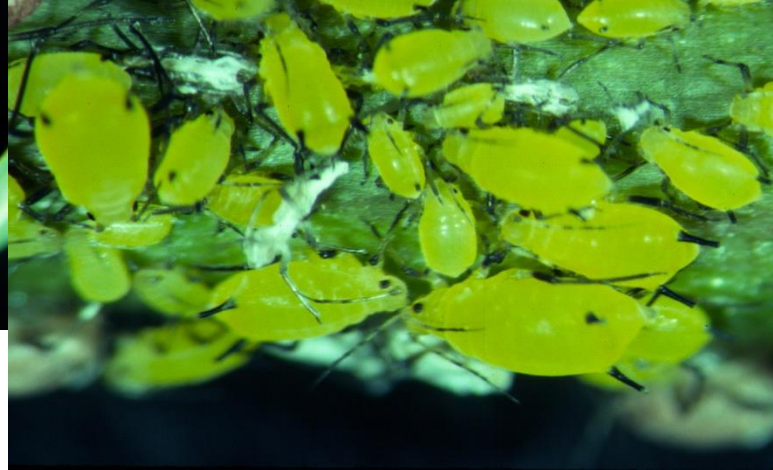


Plants can  
outgrow the  
damage





Most aphid species in nature  
infest only certain plant species



Milkweed aphid on  
*Asclepias*

Photos: D. Gilrein

*Uroleucon* aphids on *Heliopsis*



Cannabis  
aphid

Suzanne Wainwright-Evans



Lupine aphid



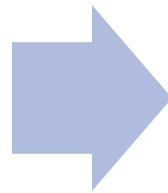
# Common Aphid Pests of Greenhouse Crops



- Green peach aphid
- Foxglove aphid
- Melon/cotton aphid
- Potato aphid



Q: Why do we care which kind of aphid is present?

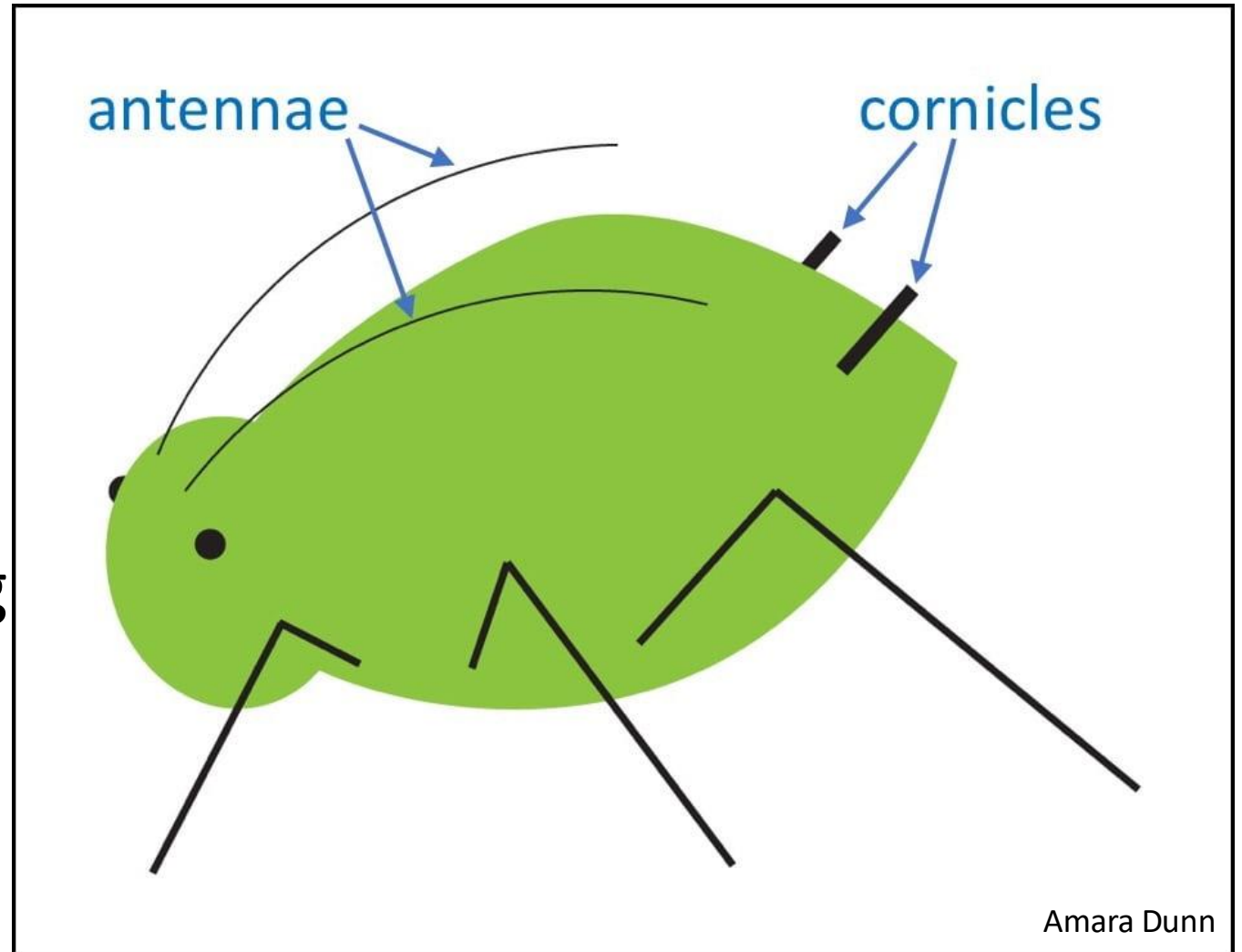


A: Some natural enemies work better on some than on others.



## Some aphid characteristics for identification

- Coloration
- Size
- Antennal length, coloring
- Cornicles coloring





# Green Peach Aphid

- Most common aphid on most greenhouse crops
- Smallish aphid
- Lime-green, yellowish, or pinkish
- Body and cornicles same color

Photo: UC IPM

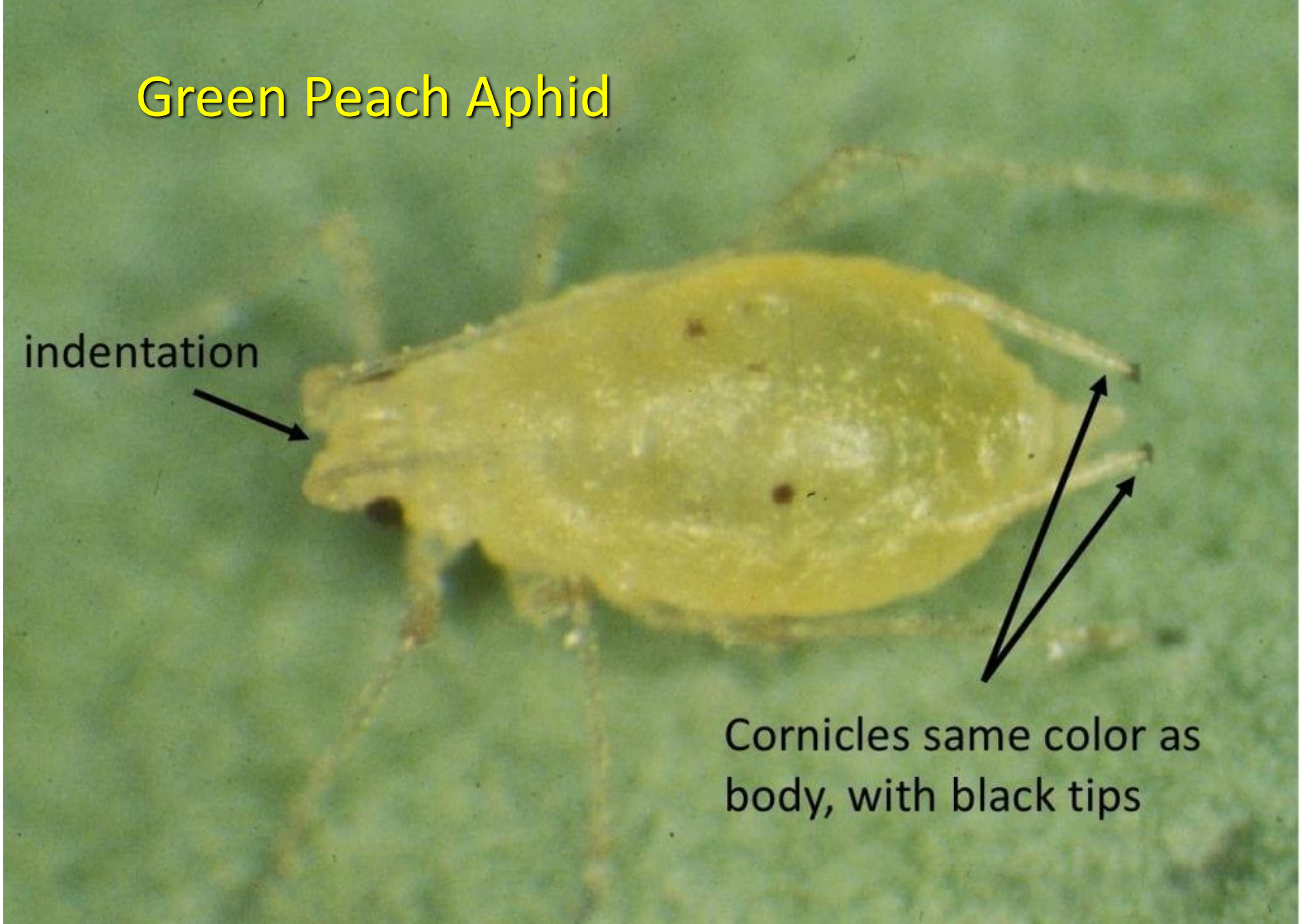


# Green Peach Aphid

indentation



Cornicles same color as  
body, with black tips





# Melon/cotton aphid



- Small aphid
- No indentation on head
- Note black cornicles, regardless of body color



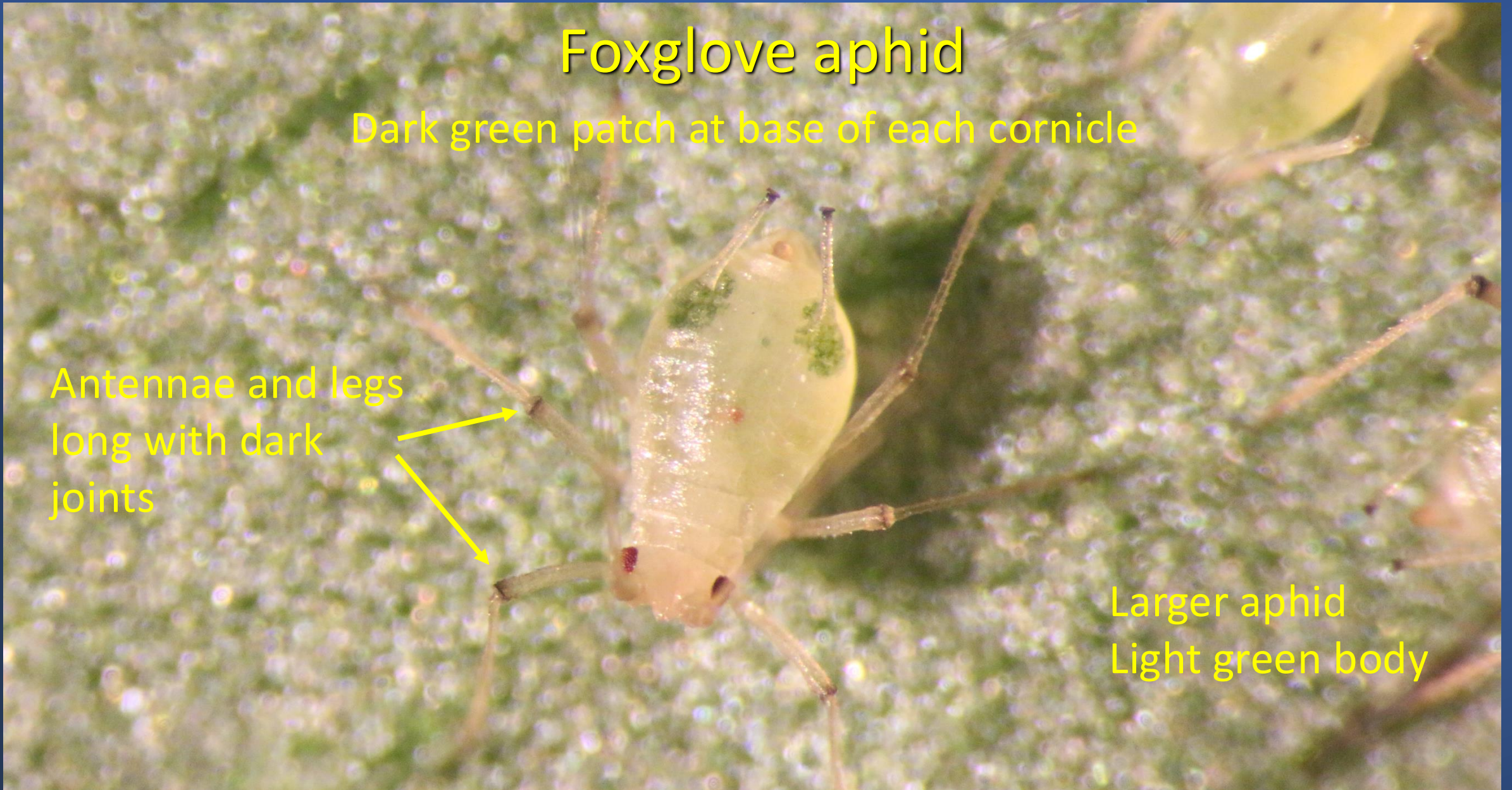


# Foxglove aphid

Dark green patch at base of each cornicle

Antennae and legs  
long with dark  
joints

Larger aphid  
Light green body



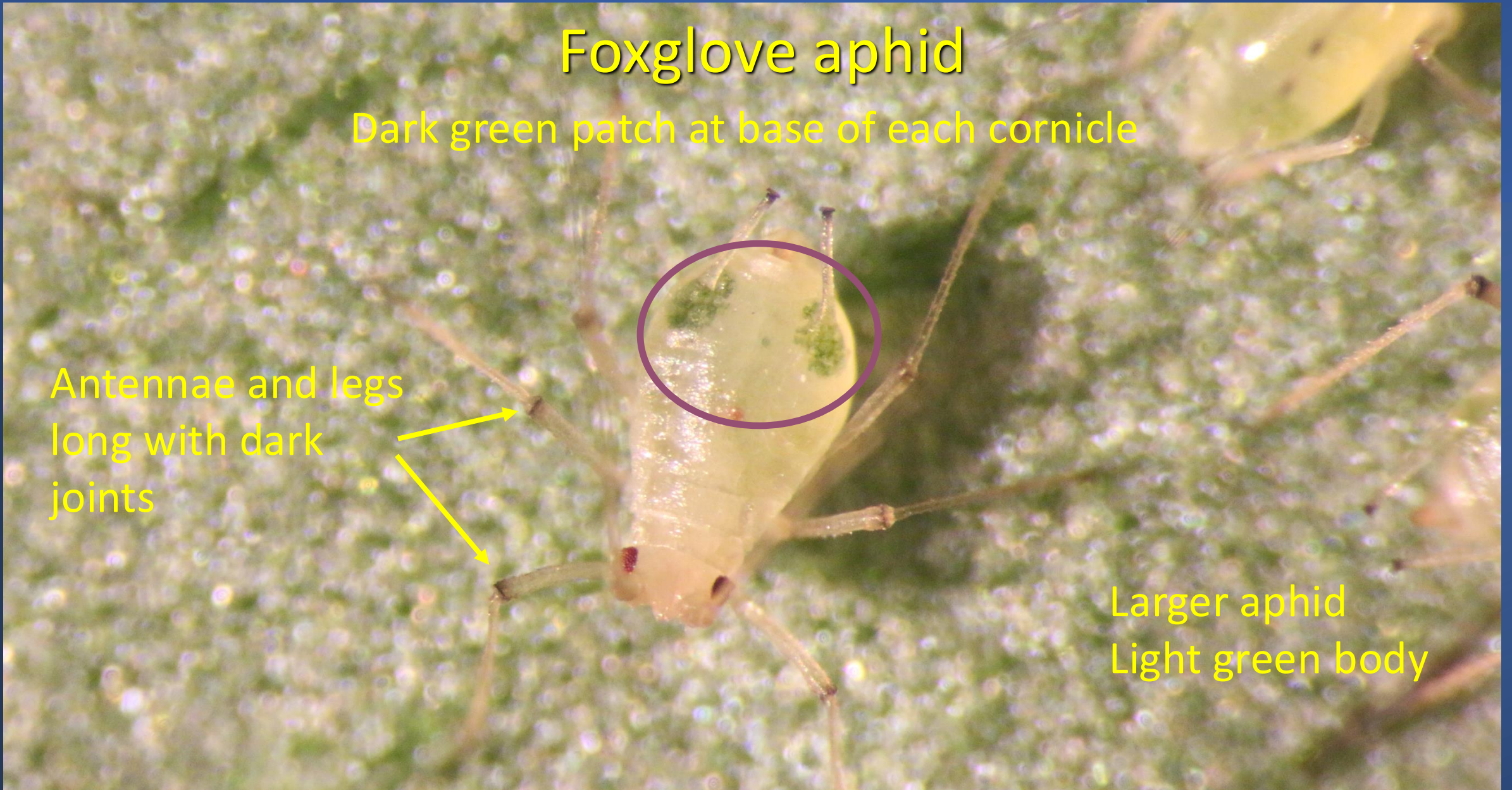


# Foxglove aphid

Dark green patch at base of each cornicle

Antennae and legs  
long with dark  
joints

Larger aphid  
Light green body





# Potato aphid

← stripe

- Large aphid
- Dark stripe
- Body looks a bit segmented



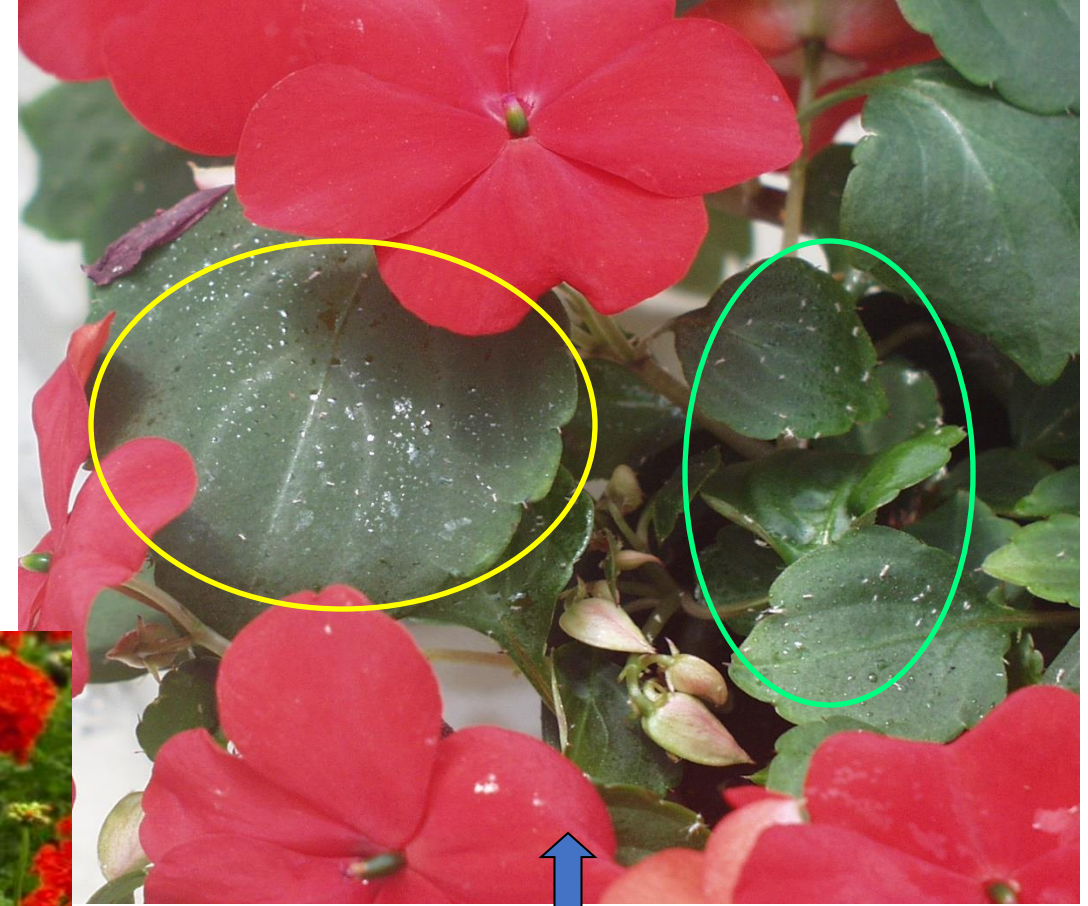
Aphids may be winged or non-winged. These are both green peach aphids



UGA1326230



# Monitoring: Early detection



Look for shiny, sticky honeydew  
and white cast skins



Yellow sticky cards may help  
but are not reliable for aphids





# Winged aphid on a yellow sticky trap

Alerts you to aphid presence, but:

- Did it fly in from outdoors?
- Is there an infestation on the crop?



Aphids usually give birth to live nymphs; no egg stage.  
Do not need to mate to reproduce 50-250 offspring



Can develop to reproductive adults in 7-10 days

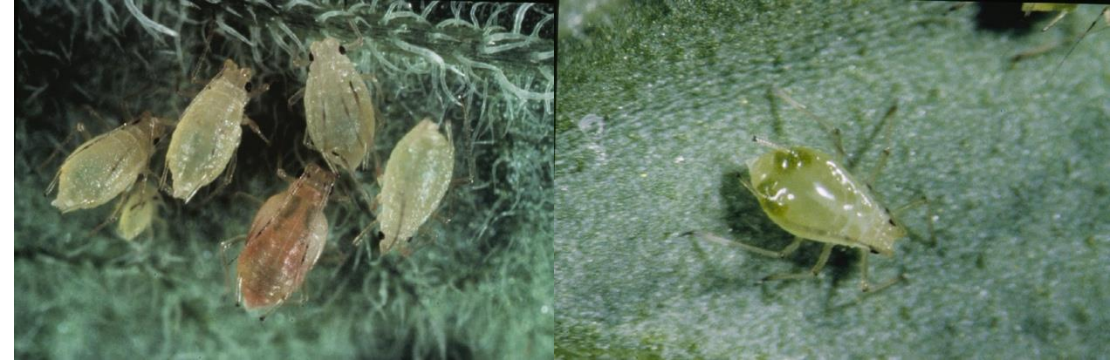




- Red eyes of developing nymphs can be seen inside mother



# Aphid days-to-adult at various temperatures



Green peach aphid

Foxglove aphid

Temperature (°F)		58°	68°	77°	86°
Devel. Time (days)	GPA	12	7	5	5
	FGA	11	8	7	10

Aphids are cool weather pests

Aphids reproduce rapidly





Aphid feeding locations on a plant can vary





Elise Lobdell



Aphid feeding locations on  
a plant can vary





Be careful of  
aphids  
dropping  
from hanging  
baskets onto  
crop below





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Watch for ants!





## Scouting Tips for Aphids

- Yellow sticky traps only for winged adults
- Foliar inspection is necessary
  - Incoming plant material
  - Weekly during crop growth
- Inspect new growth, stems below buds, lower surfaces of leaves
- Look for:
  - White cast skins, honeydew, ants, deformed growth
- Use sentinel plants to monitor control



# Use “sentinel plants” for monitoring aphid control



Look for killed (or parasitized) aphids





# Crops that are earliest for aphid infestations

Weeds!!

Pansies

Fuchsias

Daylilies (if they've been overwintered in a greenhouse)

Calibrachos

Peppers

Eggplants

Ipomoea

Vinca vine

Salvias

Portulacas