



White pine aphid

Cinara strobi

Order Hemiptera, Family Aphididae; aphids
Native pest

Host plants: Eastern white and Scotch pine

Description: Adult aphids are approximately 4.5 mm long, winged or wingless, and dark brown with white markings.

Life history: White pine aphids feed in clusters on shoots and branches. They lay shiny black eggs in rows on the needles in late summer. There may be several generations a year.

Overwintering: Black eggs in rows on needles, twigs, and branches.

Damage symptoms: Light to moderate infestations cause little damage. Heavy infestations produce large quantities of honeydew that is colonized by sooty mold fungi. This can cause flagging and death of twigs.

Monitoring: Look for honeydew, sooty mold and ant activity. Look for black aphids with white markings on trunks, twigs, branches, and bark. In winter, look for rows of shiny black eggs on needles, twigs, and branches.

Physical control: In light infestations remove shiny black eggs.

Chemical control: Chemical control is rarely necessary. In heavy infestations, control eggs by use of a dormant oil spray. Where natural enemies are present and aphid populations large, use a horticultural oil or soap spray. Use a residual insecticide only if natural enemies are not present and aphid populations are heavy.

Biological control: Ants, yellow jackets, lacewings, lady beetles, ground beetles, hover fly and predaceous midges are all important predators. *Aphidius* wasps (Braconidae) are important parasitoids. Ants may tend the aphids for honeydew, protecting them from natural enemies.

Plant mortality risk: Low

Biorational pesticides: azadirachtin, insecticidal soap, horticultural oil, pymetrozine, pyrethrins, pyriproxifen

Conventional pesticides: acephate, bifenthrin, chlorpyrifos (nursery only), cyfluthrin, deltamethrin, fluralinate, imidacloprid, lambda-cyhalothrin, malathion, permethrin



White pine aphids on larger branch. (258)
Photo: John Davidson



White pine aphids on shoot. (259)
Photo: John Davidson