

## Citrus blackfly

### What is it?

The citrus blackfly (*Aleurocanthus woglumi*) belongs to the whitefly family. It is primarily a pest of citrus but where infections on citrus are heavy, it can infest other species including, avocado, banana, cashew, coffee, ginger, grape, guava, lychee, mango, papaya, pear, rose. By themselves, non-citrus trees and shrubs are not normally affected.

### What to look for?

Citrus blackfly adults are dark-grey to black and measure 1.33-1.66 mm in length. Females produce 100 eggs or more which are laid in spirals on the underside of leaves. The eggs are golden brown and darken prior to hatching. The immature larval and pupal stages of the whitefly appear as tiny black scales attached to the undersides of leaves, these do not move. Adult flies fly readily but feebly when disturbed and resetttle quickly.



Adult citrus blackfly

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Developmental stage of the citrus blackfly

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## What damage does it cause?

The greatest damage is caused by the sucking of plant sap, which removes water and nutrients. Additional damage is caused by the production of honeydew that leads to growth of sooty mould which coats leaves and shoots.

The combination of direct feeding of high numbers of flies and the production of large amounts of honey dew causes a decline in general health of the tree and reduced fruit set and fruit quality.

## Where is it found?

Widespread in Asia, USA and South America. The nearest location to Australia is Papua New Guinea.

## How can I protect my orchard from the citrus blackfly?

Check your orchard frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common mango pests so you can tell if you see something different.

**If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.**



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### Want more info?

If you would like more information, or to download a copy of the Industry Biosecurity Plan for the Mango Industry, visit [www.planthealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au), email [admin@phau.com.au](mailto:admin@phau.com.au) or phone (02) 6215 7700.