

Russian wheat aphid

How to recognise it

Russian wheat aphid (*Diuraphis noxia*) has been found in many grain growing regions of Australia since May 2016.

Hosts

- Wheat, barley, oats, rye and triticale.
- Many other grass species, including weeds.

What to look for

- Plant symptoms together with the presence of aphids.
- White, yellowish and purple/red streaks along leaves.
- Leaf rolling along margins
- Awns trapped by rolled flag leaf.
- Heads can have a bleached appearance.

Russian wheat aphid may be present in mixed populations. If aphids which are commonly found in cereals are observed it should not be assumed these are the only ones present.

What does the aphid look like?

- Elongated body up to 2 mm in length.
- Pale yellowish-green to grey-green in colour.
- Double tail, no siphuncles. See comparison images.

What to do if you suspect Russian wheat aphid?

A key management strategy for RWA overseas is to preserve populations of predators and other beneficials to help control aphid numbers. This strategy should be used in Australia wherever possible.

RWA is likely to warrant chemical control if infestations exceed thresholds of 10% of plants infested through the high risk period of early booting to soft dough (Z40 – Z85).

In crops where RWA has been identified, the easiest way to determine a 10% level of damage is to assess if at least 5 tillers from a total of 50 tillers are showing symptoms of aphid damage (see above under “what to look for”) and aphids.

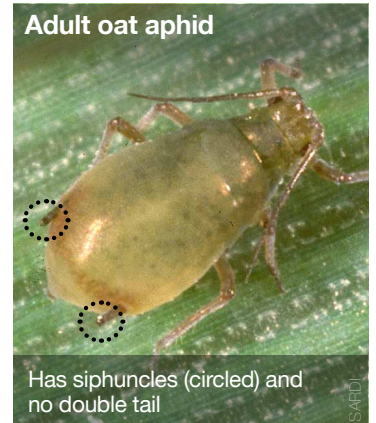
It is important that representative parts of the paddock are assessed before determining if the threshold has been reached.

Contact your state department of agriculture or your agronomist for advice on controlling this pest.



Russian wheat aphid

Double tail (arrows) and no siphuncles (circled)



Adult oat aphid

Has siphuncles (circled) and no double tail



Damage from Russian wheat aphid



Russian wheat aphid colony. Note leaf rolling and streaks along the leaf