

Black bean aphid

Aphis fabae

What crops does it affect?

This aphid is a major pest of bean crops where it colonises in large numbers, but it has a very broad host range with over 80 host species including potato, cabbage, cauliflower, radish, celery, capsicum, eggplant, cucumber, beets, cucurbits, chilli, and grain. In addition to the direct damage that aphid feeding does to plants, aphids can transmit plant viruses (many species including potato virus Y), making its potential arrival in Australia a problem for many plant industries, including potatoes.

What does it look like?

Black bean aphid is <4mm long, is completely black (or very dark green) in appearance and is usually found clustered together in large numbers.

Which part of the plant will be damaged?

Whole plant. Along with some feeding damage and secretion of honeydew that causes sooty mould, the main harm that this aphid would bring to potato growers is that it transmits viruses, including potato virus Y (PVY), potato leaf roll virus (PLRV) and potato virus A (PVA).

What should I look for?

Black bean aphids are usually noticed on plants because of their contrasting colour and the presence of ants. Aphids feed by sucking plant sap, so infested growth is often yellowed and curled.

How does it spread?

Within a crop the pest spreads by flying. Long distance transport is likely to occur through the movement of infested plants, plant tops, soil or packaging. The aphid overwinters on European spindle plants (commonly found in Australia) and winged aphids spread to host plants in the warmer months.



Black bean aphids.

Mourad Louadfel, Bugwood.org



Black bean aphid infestation.

Ansel Oommen, Bugwood.org

**IF YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL,
CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE**

 **1800 084 881**

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