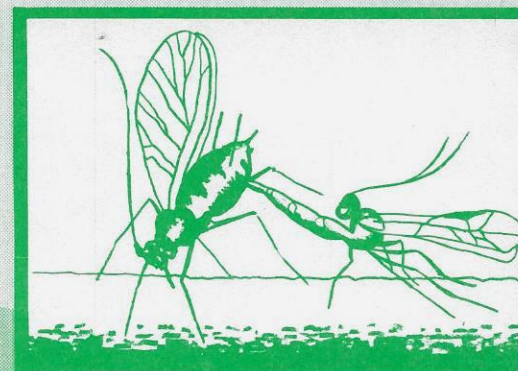


PEST-O-GRAM



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Black Bean Aphid in Sugarbeets

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The black bean, *Aphis fabae* Scopoli is not the most common aphid in the Imperial Valley but occasionally builds up on several crops including sugar beet. The black bean aphid is also a vector of more than 30 plant pathogenic viruses, including non-persistent viruses of beans, peas, beets (red and sugar), crucifers (cole crops), cucurbits (cucumber, melons, squash and watermelon), potato and tomato and the persistent viruses beet yellow net and potato leaf roll.



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Purplish black adults and reddish purple nymphs of the black bean aphid, *Aphis fabae* Scopoli.

Photo by Jack Kelly Clark.

Because the black bean aphid has been found in high numbers on sugar beet, all PCA's should be aware of this aphid that can infest not just sugar beet, but many different crops and can transmit virus diseases such as beet yellows, beet western yellows and beet mosaic. Black bean aphid can damage beets by sucking plant sap, retarding growth and causing the leaves to turn yellow. The

most important damage to sugar beet is from virus diseases transmitted by viruliferous winged black bean aphids.

PCA's should also be aware of the strong resemblance black bean aphid has to the cowpea aphid commonly found in alfalfa this time of year. There are many predators (lady beetles, syrphid fly larvae predacious bugs and lacewings) and braconid parasites that attack black bean aphid. However, the natural enemies may not prevent the buildup of a heavy population that can require an insecticide application to prevent damage. Black bean aphid can be easily controlled with insecticides commonly used for aphid control on our vegetable crops and sugar beets.



Cowpea aphids, *Aphis craccivora* Koch.

Photo by Jack Kelly Clark.