Greenhouse Pest Message, June 23, 2023
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Continue to monitor for **aphids** on late season spring crops, early summer crops and perennials.



Figure 1 & 2: Aphids on sedum (left) and on daisy flowers (right). Photos by L. Pundt

Leafhoppers do not overwinter in CT and migrate up from southern areas in the late spring. Leafhoppers have recently been reported on beans and potatoes in southern New England. As farmers are mowing their hayfields, they can migrate to ornamentals. Start looking for them on their favorite herbaceous ornamental hosts such as *Alcea, Astilbe, Baptisa, Dahlia, Gaura, Hibiscus, Lupinus* and *Nepeta.*

Immature nymphs are similar in appearance to the adults but lack fully developed wings.



Figure 3 & 4: Immature leafhopper nymphs (left) and adult (on right). Photos by L. Pundt

Leafhoppers inject a toxin as they feed, so that leaves develop a v-shaped, brown edge burn at the tip on the infected leaves, known as “hopper burn”. This may be mistaken for leaf scorch due to water stress (common on astilbe)

or high soluble salts.

Figure 5 & 6: V shaped hopper burn on astilbe (left) and lupine (right). Photos by L. Pundt

The very active leafhoppers dart around and fly up from foliage when disturbed so yellow sticky cards can be helpful monitoring tools. Using yellow sticky cards also makes it easier to determine which species of leafhopper is present. Potato leafhopper adults are approximately 1/8-inch long, light green with characteristic white spots just behind their head that are visible under high magnification.

Figure 7 & 8: Wedge-shaped leafhopper adult on *Baptisia* (left) and on sticky card (right). Photos by L. Pundt

There are limited natural enemies commercially available for the management of the fast-moving leafhoppers.
Control of leafhoppers with contact insecticides is difficult because they are very mobile, and new leafhoppers enter treated areas after sprays have dried. Systemic insecticides may be applied to ornamental plants to prevent feeding damage when leafhoppers first appear. For more options see the latest edition of *New England Greenhouse Floriculture Guide* available online at: https://greenhouseguide.cahnr.uconn.edu/

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