




Maize aphid

Rhopalosiphum maidis Corn leaf aphid, Green corn aphid

	Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control
 <p>Adult <i>R.maidis</i> (H. Banziger)</p>  <p>Maize aphid infestation (Department of Plant Pathology Archive, North Carolina State University, Bugwood.org)</p>  <p>Maize aphid infestation in tassel (Eric Burkness, Bugwood.org)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sow early (before the onset of rains) so that ears appear before the peak period of aphid populations • Provide adequate nutrients to soil with manure to grow healthy plants • Provide adequate irrigation during the silk stage to reduce or eliminate aphid damage • Eliminate weeds and host plants, such as Johnson grass, from around the farm • Practise crop rotation with non-cereal crops e.g. beans, cowpeas, etc. • Encourage natural enemies such as parasitic wasps, lady beetles, syrphid fly larvae and lacewings by reducing the amount of chemicals used in the field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor protected locations on the plant (i.e. within the whorl, in the curl of the leaves, upper part of the cornstalk) during whorl stage for dark green to bluish-green nymphs and adults • Infestation usually starts on the leaf whorls, unemerged heads and tassels. The most severe damage occurs between late-whorl and pollination stages • In heavy infestation, feeding may cause leaf curling, wilting and yellow mottling, and stunting of the whole plant • Abundant production of honeydew by aphids results in sooty mould growth, and tassels and upper leaves may become completely covered preventing pollen release • Ants are attracted by honeydew secretions; monitor ant activity at the base of the plants • <i>R. maidis</i> is not of major importance and often doesn't need control, unless transmitting viruses (it is a vector of maize dwarf mosaic virus and maize leaf-fleck virus) • Act only if 50 % of the plants monitored have more than 100 aphids/plant, and plants are under drought stress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If available, release biological control agents such as <i>Aphelinus varipes</i>, <i>Lysiphlebus testaceipes</i> and <i>L. mirzai</i>

Note: Pesticides may be available to control this pest. Please check with the Ministry of Agriculture in your country to find out which pesticides are registered in your country and the local restrictions for their use.