

Aphids on okro

Myzus persicae, *Aphid gossypii* Green peach aphid; cotton aphid



Adult *M. persicae* aphid (Scott Bauer, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org)



Aphids and ant on young okro pod (CABI)

Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>M. persicae</i> are small aphids which feed on plant sap. These aphids can transmit plant viruses. • Conserve natural enemies by avoiding use of broad spectrum insecticides. • Use agro-nets (400 µm mesh) from seedling to vegetative stage to prevent aphid access. • Use aphid repellent plants (e.g. marigold, onion and/or garlic) in alternate rows amongst okro. • Use dry cow dung and green herb/shrub leaves to make smoke during early morning or late evening to repel aphids. • Apply poultry manure (after 1 week decomposition at 850 kg/Ha) to ensure high plant vigour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin monitoring seedling stage twice a week during early mornings and/or late evenings (especially during dry periods). • Observe for slow moving grey-black or green aphids, these are normally found in colonies on the underside of leaves as well as on new shoot tips and buds. • Observe for ants (linked with aphid presence) climbing up and down crop. • Look for yellowing leaves, stunted growth and honeydew on infested crops. Sooty mould may grow on the honeydew. • Look for curled, wrinkled or cupped leaves and mosaic patterns on the leaves (alternating dark and light patches) - these are symptoms of viruses that can be transmitted by the aphid • At random, examine 20-30 plants, if 2-3 have at least 2 aphid colonies then undertake direct control measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spray infested crops with a strong jet of water to remove aphids. • Use soap solution (potassium soap) (add 10-15 tablespoons of liquid soap and 1 L of water in a knapsack) to spray on plants. • Release biocontrol agents (e.g. <i>Aphidius</i> spp., ladybirds, lacewings and parasitic wasps). • Spray crops with botanical extracts (e.g. garlic, neem, red chilli pepper and soap). Take 50 g mixture of each in 2 L of water, boil for 15 minutes, cool then spray during evening.

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.