

Problem: Honeysuckle Aphid - *Hyadaphis tataricae*



Hosts: Honeysuckle

Description: Honeysuckle aphids tend to congregate on new plant growth. Salivary secretions cause a stunting of leaf and stem growth and leaves tend to fold upwards. Shoots do not elongate normally and there is a proliferation of small and weak side shoots giving a broom effect. Aphid colonies build up in folded leaves.

Honeysuckle aphids overwinter as eggs and are primarily found on plants that were infested the previous year. Eggs hatch in the spring giving rise to the first generation of aphids. Many generations may be produced during the summer. All aphids are females which reproduce asexually. Sexual aphid forms are produced in the fall of the year and these produce the overwintering eggs.

Honeysuckle aphids are very small and easily overlooked. They are pale green to creamish in color and covered with a fine powdery dust. The brooming effect of honeysuckles is a giveaway for the presence of honeysuckle aphids.

Recommendations: Many eggs may be eliminated by the removal and disposal of the previous year's infested plant materials. Because all of the eggs probably will not be removed, insecticides may be necessary. Systemic insecticides that are recommended include acephate (Orthene, Bonide Systemic Insect Control) and imidacloprid (Merit, Bonide Annual Tree and Shrub Insect Control, Hi-Yield Systemic Insect Granules and BioAdvanced Tree & Shrub Insect Control). These insecticides should be applied in the spring when new leaves are expanding and before newly-hatched aphids initiate feeding. In addition, these insecticides may provide some "control" of aphids within the folded leaves. Repeat applications of acephate may be warranted depending on the timing of application and extent of the infestation. Acephate may provide "control" for a month whereas imidacloprid should give season long "control." The benefit of using systemic insecticides is the long residual activity

and preservation of natural enemies such as ladybird beetles that will prey upon the aphids in the folded leaves. Always be sure to read the label for instructions on the proper application method of these systemics.

References:

1. [Honeysuckle Leaf-folding Aphid](#), University of Wisconsin-Extension, Publication A3184

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