

The Four Most Common Aphids Found in Alfalfa Fields



Pea aphids, green & pink colored (photo from University of Wisconsin).



Blue aphid (photo from Iowa State University, Marlin Rice).



Spotted aphids (photo from forestryimages.org)



Cowpea aphids, usually associated with warmer weather (photo from the University of California).

Economic thresholds for aphids in alfalfa from publication IPM-58, *Pest Management of Alfalfa Insects in the Upper Midwest*, Iowa State University, January 1999

Plant height, inches	Pea aphids/stem	Blue aphids & Cowpea aphids/stem	Spotted aphids/stem
< 10	30 – 50	10 - 50	10 – 20
10 – 20	50 – 75	30 - 50	20 – 40
> 20	100	> 50	> 40

Beneficial insect levels to justify not treating for aphids in alfalfa:

- 1 or more adult lady beetles to 5 – 10 aphids
- 3 or more lady beetle larvae to 40 aphids