

# PEST ALERT!

## POTATO LEAFHOPPER

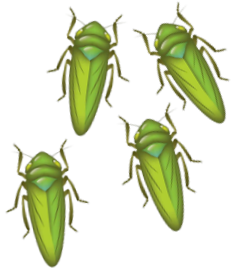
*Empoasca fabae*

I cannot overwinter in NY, but I migrate from warmer regions to the south during the springtime, arriving in NYC by June



My life cycle lasts about 3 weeks. I go through 5 different nymph stages before growing wings as a fully mature adult and then laying microscopic eggs on the underside of leaves.

When feeding, I suck sap from the leaves and release a toxin that clogs the plant veins. The resulting systems have become known as hopperburn.



### WHEN

LATE SPRING AND SUMMER

### WHERE

THE UNDERSIDE OF LEAVES

### HOW

SUCKING SAP FROM, AND INJECTING TOXIN INTO, VEINS



Various stages of potato leafhopper nymph on a leaf underside  
NOTE: the small green specks are honeydew secreted by the potato leafhopper while feeding



Close-up of adult potato leafhopper (~1/8" long)



Severe damage on potato

Early signs of hopperburn on potato



Early signs of leafhopper damage, known as hopperburn, on peanuts

### WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

- **Cultivate healthy plants** that will withstand leafhopper damage better. Be sure to start with disease-free seedlings, plant with proper spacing to ensure airflow, and to water consistently.
- **Select hopper-resistant varieties**, when able. Satina, Keuka Gold, Russett, and Cranberry potatoes have been found to withstand potato leafhopper better than others.
- **Spray the leaves with neem oil** to deter them from feeding and to limit their spread

### PLANTS TO WATCH

- Potato leafhopper prefers to feed on **POTATOES** and **BEANS**
- It can also target different fruit and vegetable crops, including **STRAWBERRIES, CANTALOUPE, EGGPLANT, and PEANUTS.**
- Leafhopper is a significant pest of **ALFALFA**, which is not commonly seen in NYC