

## Sucking pests

# Leafhoppers

Leafhopper feeding causes stippling of plant leaves that is similar to damage caused by twospotted spider mite. Leafhopper feeding can result in leaf distortion, chlorosis, plant stunting, leaf curling, leaf yellowing and necrosis. Extensive feeding damage gives plants a scorched appearance. Both the adults and nymphs are active, typically moving sideways when disturbed.

Leafhoppers feed on a wide variety of herbaceous perennials. The aster leafhopper transmits aster yellows disease.

**Management:** Remove weeds from adjacent areas – many weeds serve as a reservoir for leafhoppers. Contact insecticides may be used against leafhoppers, but control can be difficult because leafhoppers are very mobile.



■ 3 mm

Leafhoppers are 3 mm long, slender and wedge-shaped. They are usually yellow to light green, depending on the species. They hold their wings roof-like over their body.