**Aphid Alert, 2010**  
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The 2010 wheat growing season will be remembered for two reasons: the “warm” fall and the high number of aphids. Overcrowding of aphids on leaves can facilitate the efficiency of diseases. At this point it is too early to predict what 2011 will bring with regard to aphid infestations.

**Facts**
- Aphids are small soft-bodied insects that can reproduce rapidly.
- They can vector pathogens.
- Some of the most important species in the Pacific Northwest include the bird cherry-oat aphid, corn leaf aphid, greenbug and the Russian wheat aphid.
- In general all aphids have cornicles and may be winged or wingless.
- They have sucking mouth parts and undergo gradual metamorphosis.
- Field populations frequently include a complex of several species

**Oat-bird cherry aphid (OBCA),** usually the first aphid to appear on small grains. The OBCA most distinguished characteristic is a **red orange patch present** on wingless forms which can be seen on the upper side of the abdomen between the cornicles.

**Corn aphid.** The corn leaf aphid comes late in the season and tends to congregate mainly on young leaves.
English grain aphid. The English grain aphid appears later in the season than the oat bird-cherry aphid. It usually colonizes the heads of the wheat.

Russian wheat aphid.
Monitoring aphids.

- Aphids can be detected by examining leaves and stems.
- Fields should be scouted monthly in the winter months and weekly in the spring.
- If aphids are not easily found, check for honeydew, which adheres to plant surfaces.
- Usually, aphids are measured as the number of aphids per tiller.
- Aphids tend to concentrate on spots; make sure to cover your entire field while sampling

Visit [http://uspest.org/pnw/insects?06SMGR01.dat](http://uspest.org/pnw/insects?06SMGR01.dat) for more information on thresholds and treatments. *(Pictures from BugGuide.net)*