

Leafhoppers – who dunnit?

Have you ever seen tiny insects hopping around your plants? They could be leafhoppers - small insects that feed on a wide range of plants, including fruit trees, vegetables, grains, flowers, and native plants.

Some are harmless. Others can seriously damage plants by spreading plant diseases like *Xylella* (*Xylella fastidiosa*) when they pierce and suck plant sap.

By simply observing and reporting any leafhoppers you see, you will help detect pests before they spread further into Western Australia.

When to look

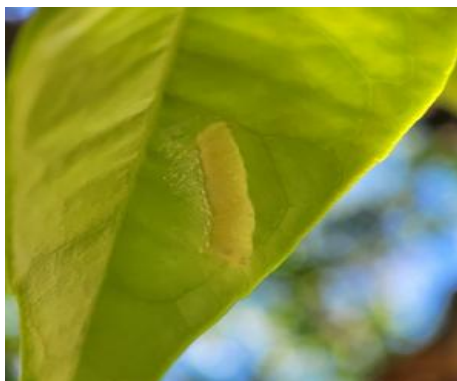
Leafhoppers are easiest to spot during the day from June to February. They often seek moisture from leaves during dry weather, so keep an eye out while watering – you might see them jump or fly off when disturbed.

Even if you don't find any leafhoppers or symptoms, still **take and submit your photos**. This helps to show that no exotic pests are present in that area.

What look for

If you are curious about how to tell different leafhoppers (and their cousins) apart, check out our easy guide at dpird.wa.gov.au/biosecurityblitz. Choose a plant in your garden, local bushland or park.

Look for signs like:



Egg clusters – tiny jelly-like eggs under leaves or on stems



Hopper burn – yellowing, browning or curling at the tips of leaves



White spots – sticky residue or dried marks



Glassy - winged sharp shooter



Planthopper



Leafhopper

Activity

What to do

Using your senses (sight, hearing, smell, touch), phone and curiosity, get out and detect (or rule out) any damaging leafhoppers.



Leafhopper

1. Choose a plant to inspect.
2. Download the MyPestGuide® Reporter app.
3. Search your chosen plant for leafhoppers or any signs.
4. Snap 4 photos: A full view of the plant, a close-up of any insect, a close-up of any damage, eggs or white spots, anything else interesting.
5. Fill in your report:
Select: correct project in drop-down list (e.g. Biosecurity Blitz).
Where: What plant you checked and where it was (garden, park, crop etc.).
I found: What you saw (e.g. 12 white spots', 'an unusual insect'). Take a guess about what you think might be happening (inference).
6. Send report.

Make a report

By using the **MyPestGuide® Reporter app**, anyone can take part. Your observations, combined with photos, surveys, and trap data, help turn everyday sightings into scientific evidence.

Every report strengthens WA's biosecurity and helps protect our environment, agriculture, lifestyle and trade.



Report your observations

MyPestGuide® Reporter
via app or online
mypestguide.dpird.wa.gov.au



Photo credits

- Egg clusters: Gene H 2022 iNaturalist, Hopper burn:
- White spots: Whitney Cranshaw Colorado State University, Bugwood.org
- Yellow headed leafhopper: MyPestGuide 2022 Rob Emery
- Leafhopper: Gunter Maywald 2025 iNaturalist
- Planthopper: Teenytinyworld 2025 iNaturalist
- Glassy-winged sharpshooter: Randy Herman 2024 iNaturalist

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