



PestFacts WA

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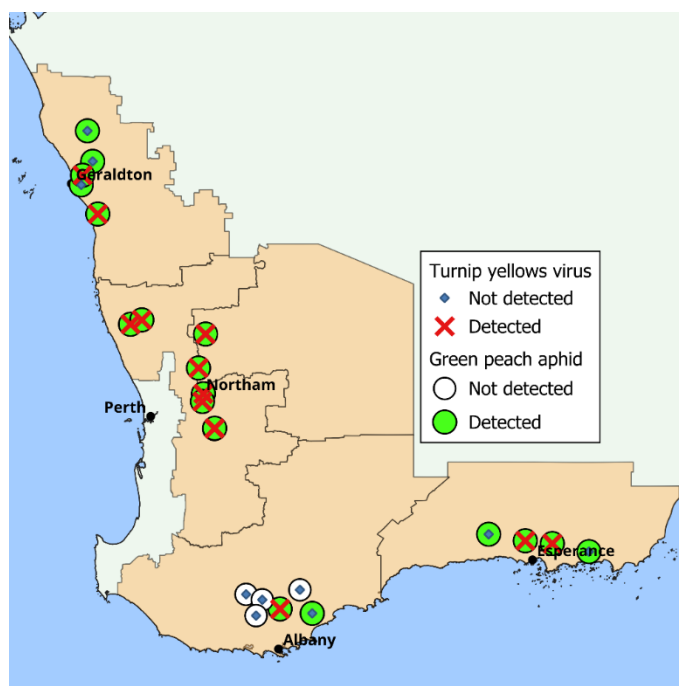
Later season canola aphid management

- Ogilvie
- Nabawa
- Woorree
- Cataby
- Moonyoonooka
- Wongan Hills
- Northam



Clusters of cabbage aphids on canola. Photos courtesy of DPIRD.

Department surveillance staff have recently found above threshold numbers of cabbage aphids in flowering canola near Nabawa, along with green peach aphids, and cabbage aphids in flowering canola near Woorree.



Findings from green peach aphid and turnip yellows virus (TuYV) monitoring sites, current to 6 August 2026. Map courtesy of DPIRD.

Green peach aphids (GPA) have also been recently detected by DPIRD's plant virology, in some cases at high infestation levels, across the grainbelt at surveillance sites ranging from the Geraldton port zone to the Esperance port zone (map above). Turnip yellows virus (TuYV) has also been detected at several of DPIRD's virus monitoring sites across the grainbelt (see map above). DPIRD staff have also detected GPA in canola near Ogilvie, Cataby, Moonyoonooka, Wongan Hills and Northam.

Turnip aphids have also been reported in canola near Northam.

It is common for multiple aphid species to colonise canola at the same time, and cabbage aphids can cause significant yield loss through feeding damage if numbers are high. The stress from aphid feeding can result in stunting and abortion of buds, flowers and pods. Canola can often compensate for this stress through pod and seed production on other racemes. However, yield loss from cabbage and turnip aphids is most pronounced in moisture stressed conditions, when plants cannot compensate in time prior to plant senescence.

There is currently no evidence to suggest that green peach aphids colonising canola later in the season (spring) cause yield loss.

Monitoring

Growers and consultants are advised to re-check canola crops for aphids, even if they have previously been sprayed, especially if the crop has experienced frost.



Cabbage aphids (left), a turnip aphid (centre) and green peach aphids (right). Photos courtesy of DPIRD.

Cabbage aphids form dense bluish grey colonies covered with a fine whitish powder on flowering racemes in spring. They also establish on crowns and under leaves in the vegetative phase. Infestations typically occur as edge effects or 'hotspots' within paddocks. Adult aphids are dull or greyish green. Cabbage aphids can feed on canola plants, particularly if warm daytime temperatures are experienced which favour aphid reproduction and feeding damage.

Turnip aphids infest canola crops in a similar manner to cabbage aphids, usually first appearing along crop edges. They have a light waxy coating that is not as pronounced as the powdery covering of cabbage aphids. Adults are olive to greyish green, usually with dark bars on the abdomen.

Green peach aphids (GPA) grow up to 3 mm long, have an oval-shaped body and vary in colour from yellow-green and green to orange or pink. Winged adults have a dark patch on the abdomen. GPA are typically found on the underside of canola leaves and are generally distributed evenly throughout the paddock.

Management

If more than 20% of plants are infested with colonies of cabbage or turnip aphids, control measures should be considered to avoid yield losses. The risk of economic yield loss from aphid aphids increases when canola crops are already under moisture stress or experience poor finishing rains.

If spraying is required, a border spray may suffice for cabbage aphids, which are most commonly found within 20 to 30 metres of the crop edge. Insecticides registered for aphid control can be found in DPIRD's [2026 Winter Spring Insecticide Guide](#).

Growers are encouraged to monitor canola crops prior to flowering, including those sown with neonicotinoid treated seed, for green peach aphids (GPA) using the guidelines outlined in the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) [Manage turnip yellows virus in canola](#) factsheet. Advice on managing GPA can be found in the GRDC [Green peach aphid – best management practice guide](#) factsheet

Consider insecticide use carefully before spraying. Green peach aphid readily develops resistance to insecticides. As GPA are typically found on the underside of leaves and within the lower canopy, they are more likely to receive sublethal doses during spraying, increasing the risk of resistance developing.

Before spraying, check canola crops for fungal infections and aphid parasitism. Pale or orange aphids indicate infection by fungal diseases, which can cause colonies to collapse.

Natural enemies, such as parasitoid wasps, ladybird beetles and hoverfly larvae, also help keep aphid numbers below threshold levels. If aphids appear shiny and bloated on close inspection, this indicates they have been parasitised by wasps. For more information, refer to the department's 2026 PestFacts WA Issue 5 article [Balancing sprays with biological control: the benefits of Parasitoids](#).

Information on the effects of different insecticides on natural enemies can be found in Cesar Australia's [Beneficials Chemical Toxicity Table](#).

Growers, consultants and other field operators who would like to know how close they are to the canola aphid threshold, and where infestations are occurring, can download DPIRD's [MyPestGuide CropScout app](#). This app is designed to assist with the inspection of canola crops for aphids relative to the spray threshold and enables users to easily record and visualise results on a map. This field intelligence can then be used to optimise spray timing and, where possible, target sprays to infestations across properties or within individual crops.

Growers and consultants can also use the [PestFacts WA Reporter app](#) to request or confirm identification of aphids found in crops.

More information

For more information on cabbage and turnip aphids, refer to Cesar Australia's [Cabbage aphid PestNote](#) and [Turnip aphid PestNote](#).

For more information about GPA, and earlier seasonal activity, refer to the articles in 2026 PestFacts WA:

- Issue 11 [Canola aphid and turnip yellows virus update](#)
- Issue 10 [Green peach aphids detected in Esperance port zone](#)
- Issue 9 [Canola aphid and turnip yellows virus update](#)
- Issue 7 [Green peach aphids and turnip yellows virus detected in canola crops](#)
- Issue 5 [Check canola crops for green peach aphids to assess virus risk](#).

For more information on canola aphids, contact Senior Research Scientist [Svetlana Micic](#) in Albany on +61 8 9892 8591 or Principal Research Scientist [Dusty Severtson](#), Northam on +61 (0)8 9690 2160.

For more information on green peach aphids and turnip yellows virus, contact Senior Research Scientist [Benjamin Congdon](#), in Perth on +61 488 904 480.

Article authors: Bec Severtson (DPIRD Northam) and Cindy Webster (DPIRD Narrogin).
Article input: Svetlana Micic (DPIRD Albany) and Dusty Severtson (DPIRD Northam).

Annual ryegrass toxicity research and survey



Oaten hay bales. Photo courtesy of DPIRD.

Annual Ryegrass Toxicity (ARGT) is a fatal livestock poisoning caused by a complex interaction between a nematode, bacterium and ryegrass host plant. While ARGT was once widespread across Western Australia's (WA's) grainbelt and parts of South Australia, its incidence declined in the early 2000s following the introduction of resistant ryegrass varieties, improved diagnostic testing and effective management practices.

However, recent diagnostic results and grower reports indicate that ARGT dynamics may be changing with our evolving farming systems and seasonal climate drivers. The disease continues to pose a significant risk to WA's grain, livestock, dairy, equine, fodder and export hay industries.

DPIRD is conducting research to better understand the current prevalence and impact of ARGT across grain-growing, livestock and export hay enterprises.

Growers and consultants are invited to participate in a short 5–7 minute survey. Your input is valuable whether or not you have experienced ARGT. All responses will remain anonymous. Survey participants will have the opportunity for free ARGT ELISA test kits.

Your input will help guide future research, surveillance and management strategies for this important livestock disease.

To participate in the survey, [click here](#).

Further information

For more information on ARGT, refer to DPIRD's [Annual ryegrass toxicity in livestock](#) page.

For more information on this research, contact Senior Research Scientist [Sarah Collins](#) in Perth on +61 (0)8 9368 3612.

Article authors: Sarah Collins (DPIRD Perth) and Cindy Webster (DPIRD Narrogin).

Important Disclaimer

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