

Blue Alfalfa Aphid Resistance

Acyrtosiphon kondoi Shinji

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PLANT CULTURE

Greenhouse

Container Flat (6 x 31 x 55 cm or similar size)
 Medium Soil mix (eg. 8 parts sand; 3 peat; 3 perlite; 1.4% by vol. lime)
 Temp/Light 22 _4° C; 16+ hour daylength
 No. of Plants 50 to 70 per replicate in rows 3 cm apart
 No. of Reps 3 minimum
 Other Scarify seed and treat with fungicide to prevent damping-off; sow seed 1 cm deep and cover with vermiculite

APHID COLONY

Source Colony consisting of blend of several field collections from area of adaptation, replenished annually
 Rearing Susceptible alfalfa in greenhouse (eg. PA-1, Riley)
 Temp/LighT 22+4°C and 16+ hour daylength

INFESTATION PROCEDURE

Age of plant 1 day after emergence; cotyledon stage; count seedlings at time of infestation
 Method Sprinkle aphids onto seedlings
 Rate Minimum of 2 aphids per seedling
 Length Approx. 21 days; spray with malathion or diazinon to terminate infestation; rate plants 7 to 10 days after spraying
 Other It is critical to maintain temperature within the range of 18 to 26°C for optimal aphid reproduction and effective resistance evaluation

RATING

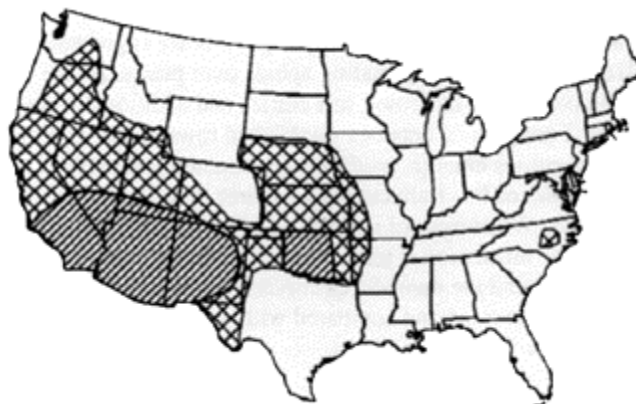
1 Resistant Tall, normal trifoliolates
 2 Resistant Tall, small trifoliolates
 3 Resistant Moderately tall, small, crinkled trifoliolates
 4 Susceptible Short; small, crinkled trifoliolates, usually chlorotic
 5 Susceptible Dead = total emerged- (classes 1 to 4)

CHECK CULTIVARS

	Approximate Expected Resistance (%)	Acceptable Range of Resistance (%)
Resistant		
CUF- 101 **	55	40-65
OK 51 (OK State)	40	30-60
Susceptible		
PA-1**	10	5-15
Arc	2	0-5
Caliverde**	3	0-5

Values for resistant standards are totals for ratings 1 to 3. Percentage of plants surviving may be higher but may include many with little or no resistance.

DISTRIBUTION AND SEVERITY OF BLUE ALFALFA APHID



Blue Alfalfa Aphid, *Acyrtosiphon kondoi* Shinji

Click on the map above for a larger version. See also the [KEY](#).

SCIENTIST WITH EXPERTISE

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CORRELATION TO FIELD REACTION

Although there have not been extensive comparisons of greenhouse and field results, it appears that levels of resistance are comparable in both situations.

BIOTYPES

Although biotypes of blue alfalfa aphid are not proven to exist, there is evidence of differential reactions to resistant plants in different locations.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Use of cultivars for rearing blue alfalfa aphids that have resistance to spotted alfalfa aphid and pea aphid may help to prevent colony contamination (PA-1). The best procedure for collecting aphids from fields for colony establishment is tapping from infested stems. Fewer will be injured and chances of including natural enemies will be much reduced compared to sweeping. Field-collected aphids should be held in isolation for 2 to 3 weeks to check for presence of parasites.

ALTERNATIVE METHOD

A field-cage technique has been used for evaluating blue alfalfa aphid resistance in the Southwest. Rows of PA-1 are planted in plots during fall. In spring, plots are caged and alfalfa is infested by sprinkling aphids over plants. As the aphid population increases, test entries and additional rows of PA-1 are planted between established rows of PA-1. As the test entries emerge, seedlings are counted and established rows of PA-1 are cut back to force aphids onto seedlings. When rows of spring-sown PA-1 have been killed, the infestation is terminated by spraying with malathion, and the numbers of surviving plants in the test entries are counted and compared with original plant counts to calculate % resistant plants.

REFERENCES

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