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## Potato leafhopper

Rufus Isaacs, MSU Entomology

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The adult leafhopper is pale to bright green and about 1/8 inch long. Adults are very active, jumping, flying or running when disturbed. The immature forms, or nymphs, are pale green and wingless. They run forward, backward or sideways when disturbed. The potato leafhopper does not overwinter north of the Gulf states. Adults migrate north each spring on southerly winds and are deposited during May and June in spring rains.



Adult potato leafhopper. 3 mm.

Potato leafhoppers can be very destructive on hybrid or vinifera varieties that are sensitive to the saliva they inject while feeding. Feeding is concentrated on young tissues near the shoot tips. On sensitive varieties, only a few adults are needed to cause leaf yellowing and cupping or shortened shoot internodes. This insect is typically a minor pest in labrusca grapes.



Sensitive varieties can display yellowed leaves and "cupping" after potato leafhopper feeding.

## Comparison of grape and potato leafhoppers

Character	Grape leafhopper	Potato leafhopper
Color	Light yellow	Green-yellow
Behavior	Walks forward	Walks sideways
Postition on vine	On inner canopy leaves	On leaves on ends of shoots
Most susceptible	Labrusca grapes	Vinifera and hybrid grapes
Damage symptoms	Stippling on leaf surface, becoming red/brown when severe.	Leaf yellowing and cupping on wine grapes. Stippling on juice grape leaves.

## Other leafhoppers

Threebanded leafhopper, *Erythroneura tricincta*, and Virginia creeper leafhopper, *Erythroneura ziczac*, can both be found in eastern U.S. vineyards. Their biologies are similar to that of grape leafhopper. The threebanded leafhopper adult is brown and black with some orange flecks on the wings. The Virginia creeper leafhopper adult is pale yellowish or white with a zigzag stripe down each wing and distinctly red cross-veins.

### Additional information

- Search [MSU Extension News for Agriculture](#) site
- [Search MSU Fruit CAT Alert](#) newsletter for articles. Type in keyword: potato leafhopper
- [Vineyard Scouting Calendar for Key Pests](#)
- Recommendations from the [Michigan Fruit Management Guide](#)



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