

SUGARBEET LEAFHOPPER

(Circulifer tenellus)

ADULT DESCRIPTION: The Beet Leafhopper (*Circulifer tenellus*) is 0.125 inches in length, pale green or gray in body color, and has dark round markings on the dorsal side of the wings and body. The overall body shape is wedge or arrow in that the wings taper off and come to a soft point at the posterior end.



LARVA DESCRIPTION: The nymph stage looks like a smaller version of the adult Beet Leafhopper with under developed wings.

HOST PLANT: Beets, tomato, chile plants

ECOLOGICAL THREAT: The Beet Leafhopper causes damage to beets and other crops through the transmission of the Beet Curly Top Virus through its feeding mechanism of the plant's phloem. The affects of Beet Curly Top Virus includes dwarfed, crinkled, and inward rolled leaves; swollen, rough, and distorted roots with hair growth; and dark necrotic phloem tissue. Chile plants are especially susceptible to the virus in that it prevents the plant from producing and causes a stunt in its growth. If the plant suffers a late season infection the fruit is usually small, round, and not marketable.

BIOLOGY: In early Spring the adult Beet Leafhopper locates a host plant and lays eggs on it's leaves. The eggs hatch into the nymph stage within 2 to 3 months. The Beet Leafhopper life cycle involves 3 morphs including: summer morph (3-4 months), winter morph (overwintering females), and migratory morph (capable of flying hundreds of miles).