

Cooperative Extension Service
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
Pests of Guam Series
CIRCULAR NO. 7



Fleahopper
(*Halticus tibialis*)

(Photograph by: A. A. La Plante)

This is a minor pest of vegetable crops. In some seasons it causes serious damage to young seedlings of eggplant, cabbage, cucurbits, beans, sweet potato, Okra, tomato and corn. It also feeds on many weeds including morning-glory and Bidens sp.

SYMPTOMS OF DAMAGE

Both young and adults of this insect feed by sucking sap from the leaves. Feeding and toxin from its saliva cause white lesions at the feeding sites. White dots on the upper surface of leaves due to feeding damage and black dots of excreta on the lower surface are characteristic symptoms for the presence of this pest.

LIFE CYCLE

The young differ from the adults by not having wings. Both stages feed on the leaves. Hind legs are large and strong and help the insect in jumping.

CONTROL.

Infested plants should be sprayed with Malathion at 1 tablespoon to a gallon of water. Crop fields and areas adjacent to the fields should be kept free of the weed hosts of this pest, as this pest will constantly multiply in the weed hosts and migrate to the crops.

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