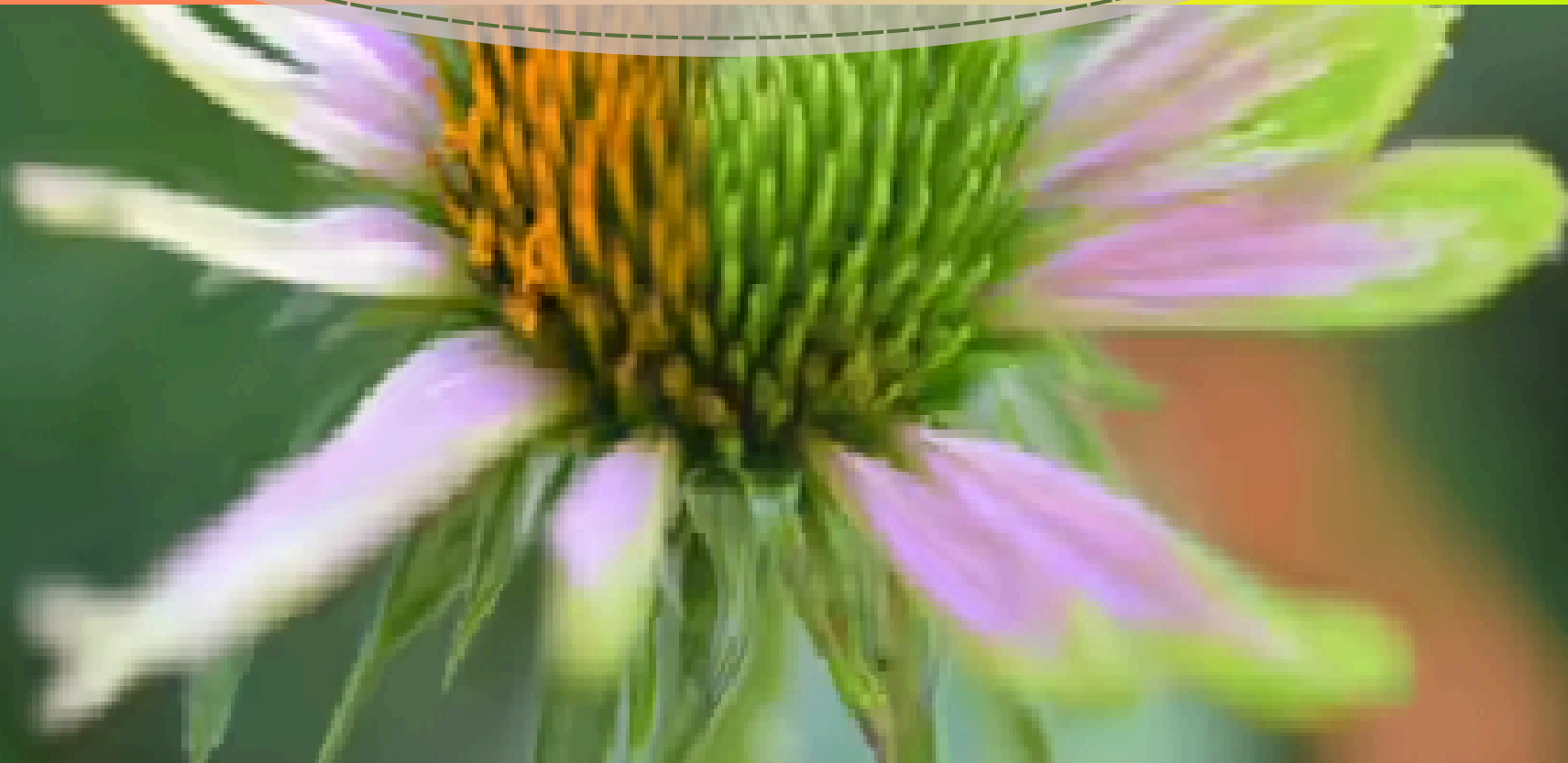


FBMG Help Desk
Question of the Week

What is Aster Yellow disease?

Lets take a look...



Aster Yellow Phytoplasma

A Bacterium vectored by an insect, affecting many different species and types of plants from vegetables to ornamentals and weeds.

The entire plant from root, to plant, to seed can become infected and like some other diseases there is not known cure at this time.

Sometimes on first site one may confuse the appearance with Rose Rosette Disease.

Symptoms Include

- *smaller or no leaves*
- *extra, exaggerated growth*
- *off color or duplicated flowers*
- *no seed production*
- *off color, mis-shaped, or twisted & curled foliage*
- *diminished vegetable or fruit quality with bitter taste*
- *leafy vegetables not completely formed*



Vigilance is Key

Early Detection is Key

While there is no known cure early detection is important.



- Remove and destroy any and all infected plants
- Properly sanitize all garden tools to avoid cross contamination
- Be careful about adding to compost
- Properly dispose of infected plants
- Proper irrigation and mulching practices
- Inspect and purchase healthy plants

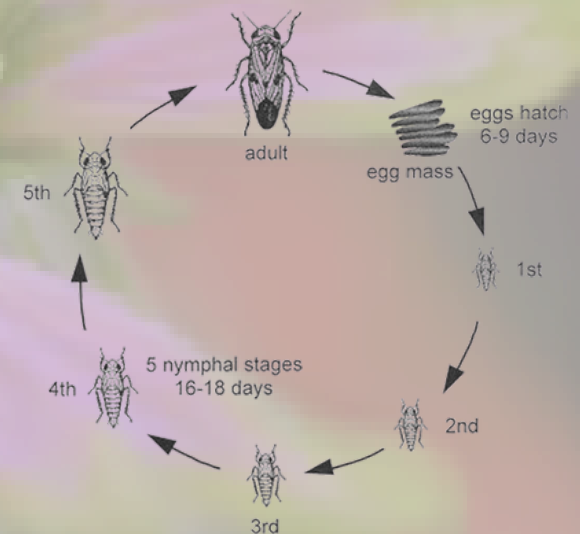
Vectored by an Insect

Aster Leafhopper



A wedge shaped body ranging in color from tan to olive green, measuring approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in length, and 3 spots on their head.

They are most active when the temperatures are consistently over 59 degrees, they pierce the plant tissue with their mouths sucking the fluid out and laying eggs in the plant. The eggs may hatch upto a year later, with wet conditons being more favorable.



Multiple ways to manage

From Predator to Chemical

Natural controls include inviting predators such as Wolf Spiders, Lady Beetles, Minute Pirate Bugs, Green Lacewings and Birds into your yard.

- Chemical control is most effective when applied shortly after leafhopper influxes.
- Most effective during leafhopper nymph stage
- Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions usually found on the package



*Do you have questions
about your home
landscape and plants?*

*Contact the Fort Bend
Master Gardener Help Desk*

*Email:
FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu*

*Phone:
281-341-7068*

*The Help Desk is manned
Monday thru Friday,
9am-Noon*

*Aster Leafhopper and aster yellow- Agricultural Biology
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Oliver, C. Dumonceaux, T., Perez-Lopez E., Wist, T., Elliott,
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