



## Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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### Onion aphid (276)



Photo 1. Onion aphid, *Neotoxoptera formosana*, causing collapse of shallot.



Photo 2. Large colonies of the onion aphid, *Neotoxoptera formosana*, on shallot.

#### Summary

- Worldwide distribution. In tropics and sub-tropics. On onion and other members of the family, including weeds. An important pest.
- Eggs unknown; no males; females produce living young. Adults dark red to black, mostly wingless. Damage from sucking sap, and transmitting viruses.
- Spread by wind, and the trade in onions.
- Natural enemies: many predators and parasitoids.
- Cultural control: do not plant overlapping crops; weed; plastic mulches; collect and burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: PDPs: neem, derris, pyrethrum, or chilli; or white, horticultural oils or soap; rosemary oil repels aphids. Synthetic pyrethroids against ants

#### Common Name

Onion aphid

#### Scientific Name

*Neotoxoptera formosana*. Two other species, *Neotoxoptera violae* (violet aphid) and *Neotoxoptera olieri* (marigold aphid) are closely related.

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Information from MacLeod A (2007) CSL Pest risk Analysis for *Neotoxoptera formosana*. Central Science Laboratory, Sand Hutton, York. (<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/plant-health/documents/neotoxoptera.pdf>).

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