

Indian green jassid

What is it?

Amrasca devastans is commonly known as the Green or Indian cotton jassid, and also by the scientific name *A. biguttula biguttula*. Indian green jassid are sapsuckers that can cause severe yield loss if present in high numbers. It has not been recorded in Australia.

The pest would be expected to establish very well in the cotton growing regions of Australia as well as areas where soybean, sunflower, mungbean, pigeon pea, tomato, maize are grown.

What does it look like?

Indian green jassid lays yellowish white eggs less than 1 mm long and 0.5 mm wide within the leaf. Eggs hatch into nymphs which are 1-2 mm long and are greenish-yellow with bluish legs.

Adults have prominent black spots on both sides of the top of the head, and another on each forewing. Forewings vary from yellowish-green to yellow during the summer. In India, during winter, the adults develop a reddish-brown colour with dark-violet eyes, brownish forewings and green legs. Indian green jassid is not known to transmit any virus or mycoplasma diseases.

If disturbed, jassid move very rapidly sideways and often hop. Feeding usually occurs on the underside of leaves.



Figure 1. Green jassid adult



Figure 2. Leaf damage



COTTON
AUSTRALIA

Compiled by Robert Mensah
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Figure 3. Leaf damage

What should I look for?

Large numbers of jassids can cause leaf damage especially lower in the canopy. Initial symptoms of jassid damage are yellowing of leaves, followed by crinkling around the margins and upward curling of leaves (Figures 2 & 3). Leaf tips and margins start to die and at later stages, bronzing of entire leaves can be seen. This may or may not be associated with leaf fall. Severely affected plants have stunted growth and fewer bolls.

How does it spread?

Wind currents may disperse flying adults over long distances. Green jassids may be carried with cotton seeds or bolls as eggs or nymphs with raw cotton and various cotton products.

Where is it now?

Indian green jassid is widespread in the Indian subcontinent, covering Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. It is also recorded in Afghanistan, Vietnam, Japan, China, Taiwan and in the Pacific island of Guam.

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What does it attack?

Major hosts include cotton okra, groundnut, jutes, soybean, niger, sunflower, aubergine, potato, mung bean and cowpea.

How can I protect my farm from Indian green jassid?

Check your farm frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common cotton pests so you can tell if you see something different.

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.



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