

## Guidance note

### Controlling aphids



There are a number of different species of aphid on St Helena, each one preferring a different group of plants, and of varying colours, green, black or red. The commonest pests are *Myzus persicae* and *Aphis gossypii*, both of which are green.

#### Signs to look out for:

- Leaves are pinched and curled; small dark or green insects clustered underneath.
- Small dark or green insects on the lower stem, underside of leaves and scattered around the plant, a few with wings but mostly without.



#### Affects:

- Many flowers, many crops and endemic plants.

#### Management:

Scout plants regularly, at least once a week and preferably more often, to check for signs of any problems. Treat when insects are first seen:

- If infestation is light spray soapy water every 2 to 3 days, using a large squirt of soft soap such as Fairy Liquid in 1l of water.
- If infestation is heavy, use a systemic insecticide such as Aphicide (active ingredient dimethoate): spray the recommended rate at 14 day intervals for up to 3 sprays per crop.

For further advice please contact Farmer Support at ANRD on 24724.