

# GIANT CONIFER APHIDS—*Cinara* spp.

**HOSTS:** Junipers and most evergreens

**IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE:** These aphids are 3 to 5 mm long, and are generally dark with a light covering of wax.

They overwinter as eggs on needles and bark. In spring the eggs hatch and aphids move to twigs and branches where they feed. Some species infest trunks and roots. Several generations are produced asexually each year. The final generation produces sexual forms that mate and lay overwintering eggs.

While feeding, aphids secrete large amounts of honeydew, a sticky substance that coats lower branches, trunks, and the ground. A sooty mold fungus grows in the honeydew. Large colonies reduce height growth and may kill infested twigs and branches.

**CONTROL:** Spray foliage with malathion,

diazinon, acephate, or oxydemeton-methyl when infestations are heavy. These materials are labelled for use on ornamentals or forest trees; however, some varieties of junipers may be injured by malathion.



*Giant conifer aphids*