

Western Grape Leafhopper

Erythroneura elegantula

Native to California and the most commonly occurring leafhopper species in the North Coast region. Overwintered females emerging from reproductive diapause must feed on grapevines for ~2 weeks before laying eggs. Parasitism rates of 10-30% of first-generation eggs by *Anagrus* spp. may result in population suppression of subsequent generations.

Identification

Adults are creamy white, with orange markings and two pairs of black spots (thorax and base of wings)



Young nymphs (left) have yellow-white bodies with clear eyes
 Older nymphs (right) have pale yellow spots on the thorax

Virginia Creeper Leafhopper

Erythroneura ziczac

Invasive species found in Napa County since the early 2010s. With no reproductive diapause, overwintered females can lay eggs immediately in suitable grapevine leaf tissue. Eggs hatch 10-14 days earlier than the other species. Parasitism is generally low in the North Coast because *Anagrus daanei* has not adapted locally to Virginia creeper leafhopper as a host.

Identification

Adults are distinguished by brown zigzag markings on their wings



Young nymphs (left) have yellow-white bodies with red eyes
 Older nymphs (middle) have four red spots on the thorax
 After molting, red spots remain visible on cast skins (right, arrows)

Variegated Leafhopper

Erythroneura variabilis

An invasive species and major pest in central and southern California since the 1980s. Its range has expanded considerably in Napa since the early 2000's.

Nymphs are found on upper and lower leaf surfaces. Limited natural control by *Anagrus* spp. because position of eggs deep in leaf tissue limits their accessibility.

Identification

Adults are darker than other vineyard leafhoppers, with orange and brown markings



Young nymphs (left) are yellow, with red longitudinal markings
Older nymphs (right) are darker, with brown longitudinal markings

Monitor leafhoppers with yellow panel traps

Distinguish between species to effectively monitor and manage leafhoppers.

Virginia creeper (top)
Variegated (middle)
Western Grape (bottom)
on yellow panel trap



Leafhopper damage

Adults and nymphs feed in leaf mesophyll, resulting in characteristic “stippling” damage (left) to the leaf blade. Late season defoliation (right) affects ripening and may occur with large populations.



Visit the UCCE-Napa Viticulture website for additional information

Quick guide to vineyard leafhoppers

Updated March 2024

<https://ucanr.edu/county/napa-county-ucce/pest-and-disease-identification-and-management>

