

Whitefly

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About Whitefly:

- These are **winged insects that have soft bodies** and are closely related to aphids.
- These are tiny, sap-sucking insects that may become abundant in vegetable and ornamental plantings, **especially during warm weather**.
- It is **naturally distributed** in Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico (Martin, 2008) and subsequently, it has spread to 22 other countries in Central and South America.
- It mainly **infests coconut palms and other broad-leaved hosts** in its native range
- It is an **invasive insect**.

How the insect attacks

- The whitefly starts **attacking the lower leaves** of the coconut palm.
 - It drains the sap from the underside of the leaf, producing a significant amount of honeydew which settles on the upper surface of the next lower leaf, leading to the growth of black, sooty mould.
 - This is the secondary infection from the whitefly infestation.
 - It has a serious **impact on the production of coconut**.
 - Not only does it **reduce the size of the coconut, but** it also decreases the coconut's water content.
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Q1) What are Aphids?

Aphids, also known as plant lice, are small sap-sucking insects that belong to the superfamily Aphidoidea. They are a common pest in gardens, farms, and agricultural fields.

Source: [Invasion of Whitefly takes a toll on coconut trees in Pune](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/whitefly/>

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