

Management of giant willow aphid in New Zealand

Stephanie Sopow ^{*1}, [Carl Wardhaugh](#) ¹

¹ Scion, 49 Sala Street, Rotorua

Giant willow aphid (GWA), *Tuberolachnus salignus* (Hemiptera: Aphididae: Lachninae), was first recorded in New Zealand in 2013 and is now distributed throughout the country. GWA feeds primarily on species of *Salix* and *Populus*, but has also been recorded in New Zealand on *Malus*, *Pyrus*, and *Coprosma*. GWA negatively impacts New Zealand's rural environment, apicultural and horticultural industries, and poses a human and health threat because of the elevated numbers of wasps associated with the aphid's honeydew. Together with partners, Scion is leading a 3 year MPI Sustainable Farming Fund programme, focusing on management of GWA via classical biological control, host resistance, and short-term mitigation strategies. An update is provided of our challenges and progress to date (year 1 of the programme).

