

Greenhouse Pest Message, April 26, 2024
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Everyone is glad to finally see more sun and busy getting ready for the big spring push. So, I will make this message very short.

I was glad to see in my travels this week, syrphid fly or flower fly or [hover fly](#) larvae feeding near isolated outbreaks of aphids. With all the cool and cloudy weather in April, I wasn't sure that I would be seeing them. Here is a photo a grower sent me this week.



Figure 1: Syrphid fly larvae. Photo submitted by grower.

[Syrphid fly larvae](#) are voracious aphid predators and can feed on dozens of aphids on a day and can help manage isolated aphid hot spots. They can also enter tightly closed leaves where aphids tend to hide. The tapered maggots come in slightly different colors. See: <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/syrphid-flies> Sometimes, growers mistakenly think these are small caterpillars and try to control them, which you certainly do not want to do. If you kill beneficial insects, you inherit their work and you are busy enough at this time of year.

The brightly colored adults can enter greenhouses from outside. As many of you know, they are highly attracted to Lobularia or sweet alyssum.



Figure 2: Syrphid fly adult. Photo by L. Pundt

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