

# Cotton jassid

## Nursery Advisory Board meeting

### December 2025

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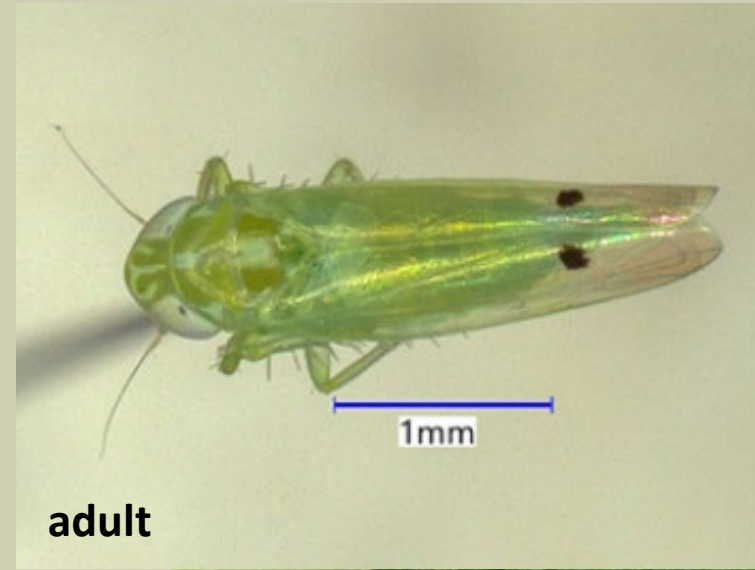
# Cotton jassid

*Amrasca biguttula* (Ishida)  
(Hemiptera: Cicadellidae)

Small (2-3 mm), green with two black spots  
(one on each wing).

Native to Asia. Present in Africa, Asia, the  
Caribbean, Central America, and North  
America (southeastern United States).

A-rated pest in California.



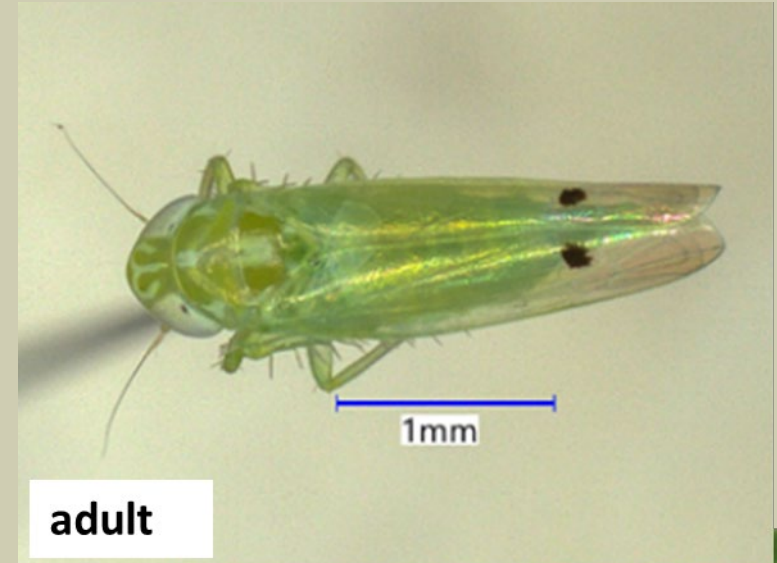
# Life history

Eggs (<1 mm in length) are laid inside veins or midribs of leaves.

Development (egg to adult) takes ~24 days.  
Multiple generations per year. Active year-round in warm climates.

Nymphs and adults feed on phloem from leaves.  
They are suspected to inject toxic saliva when feeding.

More abundant on undersides of leaves.



# Polyphagous

Host plants in at least six plant families.

- Cotton
- Grapevine
- Tomato
- Okra
- Eggplant
- Sunflower
- Hibiscus





# Damage

Feeding damage: “Hopperburn” (leaves have brown spots and curled, “burnt” edges and can fall off).

Sooty mold and abortion/loss of flowers, fruits, and (in cotton) bolls.

In cotton, symptoms and damage can progress from minor to severe and plants can be defoliated in less than two weeks.

Not known to vector plant diseases.



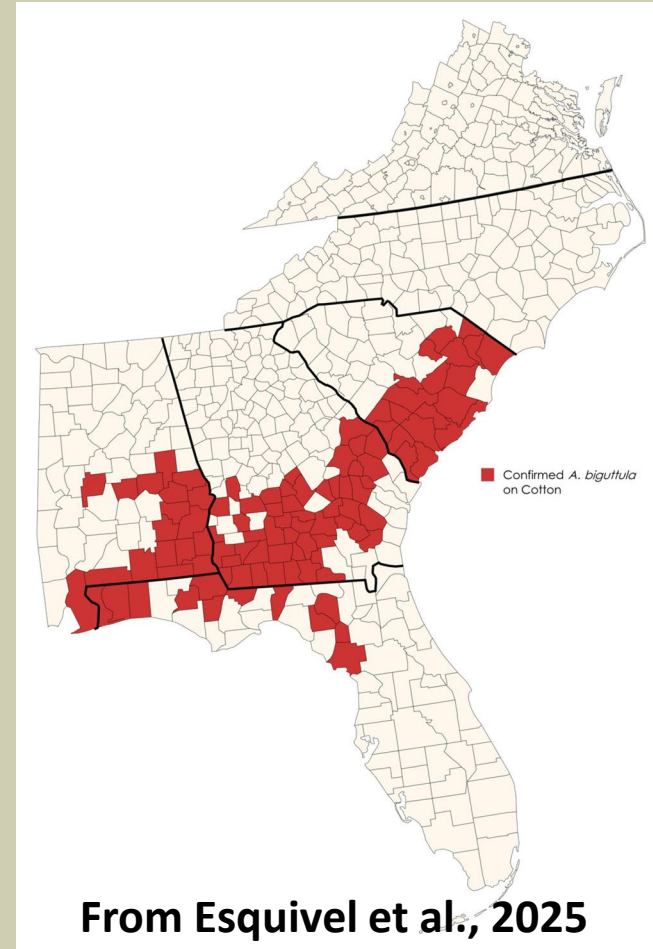
# Recent introduction to North America and rapid spread

First report in Western Hemisphere:  
Puerto Rico (2023).

First report in Continental United States:  
Florida (2024).

Now present in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina.

Possible pathway for movement in southeastern United States: Movement of infested hibiscus plants from Florida.



# Could it establish in California?

It seems likely:

- Polyphagous (hosts probably not an issue).
- Established in areas with temperate climate.





# What is at risk?

California crops (values in 2023):

Cotton: \$377 million

Hibiscus

Okra

Uncertain impacts:

Grapes: \$6.5 billion

Tomato: \$2 billion





# Artificial spread potential

**International (trade):**

Not a reportable pest.

Not a FRSMP.

Likely pathways: Whole plants (not harvested fruits/vegetables), including cotton, okra, etc.

How many international shipments of such plants enter the United States?



# Artificial spread potential (continued)

## **Domestic (trade):**

Movement of infested hibiscus plants was identified as a potential pathway for spread of cotton jassid in southeastern United States.

Cotton jassid was intercepted in California on hibiscus from Alabama in 2025.

A-rated pest (action taken on interceptions).



# Pest rating proposal

Pest rating proposal posted; public comment period ended December 2025.

Cotton jassid is an A-rated pest in California.



## California Pest Rating Profile *Amrasca*

*biguttula* (Ishida): Cotton jassid

Hemiptera: Cicadellidae

Pest Rating: A

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Comment Period: 10/22/2025 – 12/06/2025

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### Initiating Event:

*Amrasca biguttula* is a pest of cotton, grapevine, okra, tomato, and other crops. It is established in the southeastern United States and it was recently intercepted in California on hibiscus from Alabama. This insect has not yet been through the pest rating system. Therefore, a pest rating proposal is needed.

### History & Status:

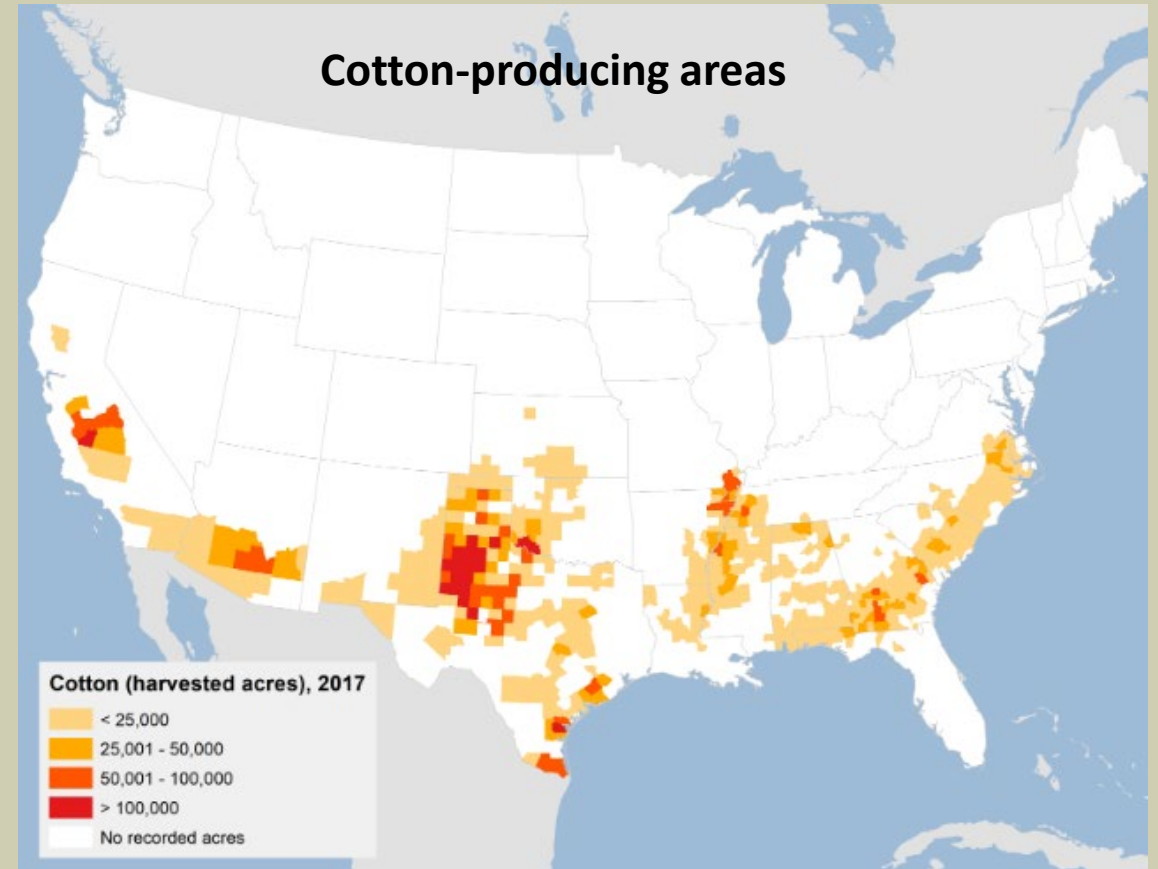
**Background:** *Amrasca biguttula* is a polyphagous leafhopper. Its reported hosts represent at least six plant families and include cotton, grapevine, tomato, okra, eggplant, sunflower, and hibiscus. (Cabrera-



# Natural spread

Possible between southeastern United States and California:

- Cotton is grown across (east to west) the southern United States.
- Several common fruits and vegetables are also hosts.



# Summary

Cotton jassid poses a risk to California cotton and possibly other crops (grapes?).

Artificial spread via movement of infested plants is probably the highest-risk (for the near future) pathway into California.

# *Thrips parvispinus* (Karny)

A-rated thrips. USDA-reportable.

Reported from Africa, Asia, North America (Florida and Puerto Rico), and Oceania.

Polyphagous. Hosts include ornamentals (*Anthurium*, *Hoya*), fruits, and vegetables (including peppers).

Causes discoloration and defoliation of leaves, loss of flowers, fruit scarring, and decreased fruit set.





# *Thrips parvispinus* (continued)

Occasionally found in nurseries and intercepted on plant material from Hawaii and Florida and in retail stores in California (*Gardenia* and *Mandevilla* species).

These are considered regulatory incidents.

Not known to be present in the environment in California.

*Thrips parvispinus* may be present in the environment in California.

However, one or more official samples from the environment is necessary to support this.





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## Report a Pest

☎ **Pest Hotline: 1-800-491-1899**

**Have you seen a new or unusual plant or pest in your area?**

If so, you can play an important role in protecting California agriculture and your environment by reporting the sighting of a plant or pest that you suspect may be a new invasive species in your area.

- [Report a Pest Web App](#)
- [Report a Pest Sighting Form](#) 





**Thank you!**

