Pest control tips and how to protect your Plants from aphids

Aphids affect many plants leaving them weak and prone to disease. It is important that as a farmer, you fight back to prevent and/or minimize the damage caused by aphids and you can do this without using chemical pesticides.

Aphid biology

Aphids are small soft bodied insects and all types are less than 3mm long and are of many species. The species of aphids range from the black bean aphids to the green fly.
Aphids come in a range of colors from white or gray, to green, through to black.
Aphids are mostly secretive, look for new growths and can always be either under the sleaves, attached on stems and/ or buds.
Aphids suck plant juices which weakens the host plants causing slow stunted growth. Leaves may become mottled, yellowed or curled while prolonged feeding may eventually kill the plants.
Some aphids transmit harmful plant diseases.

Aphids control

Start by checking plants regularly for any signs of aphids. These can be crushed by hand when seen.
Blast small infestation of aphids off the plants using water from a horse pipe. The aphids will be knocked off the plant and its unlikely that they will be able to get back to the plant.
Spray infested plants with soapy water. The soapy water covers and suffocates the aphids.
Attract aphid predators like lady birds which feed on the aphids. These can be attracted by planting a variety of flowering plants.