

Ash Plant Bug

An Insect That Causes Damage By Feeding On Ash Leaves

The Ash Plant Bug pierces leaf tissue and sucks out juices from the leaf. This feeding can cause spots on the leaves and severe infestations can cause leaf curling, distortion, and may eventually cause the leaf to die.

Infested Ash Trees Require Treatment For Control

Green, white, and blue ash species are susceptible to the Ash Plant Bug and require either a systemic or topical insecticide treatment for control. The insect does not kill its host but leaf damage can weaken the tree.

What To Look For

- Yellowish white spots “stippling” on leaves.
- Large brown areas on the leaf.
- Leaf drop and/or deformation.
- Small black spots on the bottom side of leaf.
- Active black and red nymphs (immature bugs) are visible on leaves May through July.

Life Cycle

- Eggs remain on twigs and branches through the winter (overwinter).
- Eggs hatch at spring bud break.
- First generation bugs feed for 3 – 4 weeks, mate and lay eggs that hatch in 7 – 10 days.
- Second generation bugs feed from July through August, mate and lay eggs that hatch the following spring.

Treatment and Prevention

- The Ash Plant Bug can be controlled by both soil and spray applications; depending upon the severity of infestation. Treatment timelines are dependent upon your tree, landscape, insect infestation levels, time of season, and available treatment options.
- Increase nectar sources for predators by planting flowering plants nearby.
- Fertilize and mulch with Prescription Organic Matter®.

Ash plant bug favors trees stressed by lack of adequate water; irrigate your trees weekly during dry spells. Refer to our fact sheet *Watering Drought Stressed Trees* for more information.



Nymphs, adults, and tree injury.



Leaf stippling on a green ash.



Damage to a green ash.