

Elm Leaf Miner

An Insect That Causes Damage By Mining Through Elm Leaves

The Elm Leafminer is in the larval stage of a small fly-like wasp. The larva feeds between the upper and lower layers of the leaf. As it feeds, signs of browning and drying become evident. Repeated leaf loss can affect the long-term health of trees. Elm Leafminer is more common on Red Elms but also feeds on American Elms.

Infested Trees Require Treatment For Control

Infested trees can be treated with systemic insecticide. Once damage is obvious, it is usually too late to treat for the season. However, if treatment is (is) timed correctly, the condition is easily controlled.

What To Look For

- Browning leaves with a patchwork of thin, papery layers
- Eventual leaf drop as feeding continues

Life Cycle

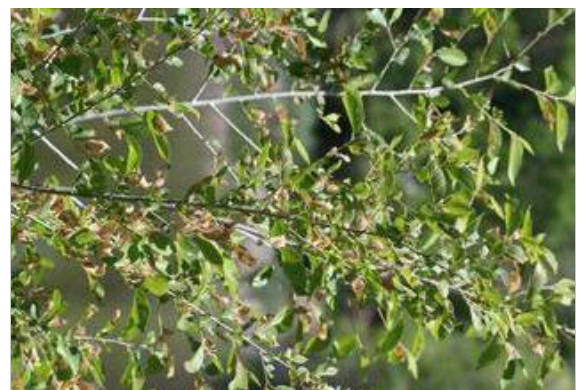
- Young leaf miners live in the ground through the winter.
- Adults emerge in spring to mate.
- Mated females lay eggs in the leaf.
- The eggs hatch and become larvae.
- Larvae mine the inner tissues, leaving brown blotches on the leaf.
- Larvae then drop to the ground where they enter the soil layer.

Treatment and Prevention

- Plant less susceptible tree varieties.
- Applications of systemic insecticide are very effective in controlling elm leaf miner.
- Treatment timelines are dependent upon your tree, landscape, insect infestation levels, time of season.



Mined leaves on red elm.



Leaf mining injury



Adult Leafminer on leaf showing damage.