

A Mite That Causes Galls On Ash Trees

Ash flower gall develops when mites feed on the male flowers of ash trees. The galls appear as green or brown clusters hanging from branches on ash trees.

Infested Ash Trees Can Be Treated For Control

Most male ash trees are susceptible to Ash Flower Gall. The mite does not kill its host, but the abnormal masses can be unsightly and persist throughout the winter and often for up to two years.

What To Look For

- Ball-like irregular masses on the flowers.
- Current year galls are green early in the season.
- Older galls are reddish-brown.
- Galls are more noticeable when the leaves fall off the tree in autumn.
- Gall masses can persist for up to two years.

Life Cycle

- Female mites spend the winter under the bud scales or bark.
- Mites begin feeding on the male flower clusters of ash in early spring.
- Mite feeding initiates gall formation of flower tissue.
- Female mites then lay eggs in the developing galls.

Treatment and Prevention

- Galls do not harm the health of infested trees.
- Once a gall starts growing it will continue to form even if the mite dies.
- Ash flower gall is difficult to control. Treatments must be applied in the early spring. Galls formed in previous seasons will remain on the tree, even if newly forming galls are prevented.



New galls early in the season.



Older galls later in the season.



Ash flower gall mite.

