

Spruce Gall Adelgids

An Insect That Causes Galls on Spruce Trees

Adelgids are aphid-like insects that suck the sap out of spruce trees. Their sucking initiates a reaction in the tree that creates the galls in which they reside. By the time the galls turn brown, the adelgids have left.

Infested Spruce Trees Require Treatment For Control

Colorado spruce, white spruce, Norway spruce, Douglas fir are most susceptible to Spruce Gall Adelgid and require systemic treatment for control. The insect does not kill its host but the abnormal masses are unsightly and persist on the infested trees and often for up to two years.

What To Look For

- Large brown pineapple-like galls at end of twigs.
- Large green pineapple-like galls at end of twigs.
- Small cotton ball-like egg masses.

Life Cycle

- Adelgids remain on the twigs and buds of the host plant through winter.
- Females mature and lay 150 - 200 olive-green eggs.
- Eggs hatch into yellow nymphs.
- Nymphs move to needle bases to feed and form galls.
- Nymphs emerge in August and September.
- Mature nymphs crawl to needles and molt into winged females.
- Nymphs lay a second generation of eggs (up to 60) then die.
- These eggs hatch into the females.

Treatment and Prevention

- Remove and destroy green galls.
- This technique is only effective where the trees have few galls.
- Adelgids can be readily controlled with applications of systemic insecticides.
- Pre-existing galls will remain in the tree after treatment.
- Effective treatment prevents gall formation on new growth only.
- Treatment timelines are dependent upon your tree, landscape, insect infestation levels, time of season, and available treatment options.

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Cooley spruce gall adelgid damage.



Eastern spruce gall adelgid damage.