

Ash Flower Gall

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What is wrong with my ash tree? Galls are abnormal plant growth that can be caused by insects, mites or plant diseases. On Ash trees a tiny eriophyid mite causes the male flowers to grow into round greenish, 1/2 to 1 inch tumor-like structure. Sometimes the lumpy growths also cause leaf distortion. During the late summer the galls will turn dark brown and woody and will remain on the tree for more than one season. Ash flower gall mites are too

small to be seen with the unaided eye. These worm shaped mites spend the winter under the buds and begin feeding and initiates gall growth early in spring. Once the gall starts growing it is too late to treat the plant.



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Will it harm my tree? Ash flower gall does not harm the health of the tree but in some years will make a tree look unsightly. In rare situations the weight of the gall tissue can cause branches to be strained. Some trees seem to be more prone to the problem.

How do I control it? Timing is everything. The mites must be killed before that galls are growing in the spring. Look for the first signs of green in the opening flower buds. Larger trees are difficult to treat, and because this is considered a cosmetic problem, treatment is rarely suggested. Young trees differ in their susceptibility. Consider replacing highly susceptible trees. An application of carbaryl (Sevin) in the spring when the first blossoms begin to form will reduce their number of galls.

For more information on: See UW-Extension Bulletin A2509, or contact your County Extension Agent:

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