

Mealy Oak Gall Wasp

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FIG. 1

Type Pest: Wasp

A small cynipid wasp called *Disholcaspis cinerosa*

- *D. cinerosa* has two generations annually (asexual & sexual) each producing a distinctively different gall type
- Adult mealy wasps are rarely seen and are approximately ¼" in length

Type of Metamorphous: complete (egg, larva, pupa, adult stages)

Other Common Names:

Period of Primary Occurrence: late summer & early fall and spring

- Last summer & early fall for the spherical woody galls resembling "balls"
- Spring for the small beige leaf galls that resembles a kernel of wheat in size and shape

Plants Affected:

Identifying Characteristics of Insect Pest

- Mealy-oak growth of spherical "balls" ranging ⅛ – 1" diameter, located on live oak branches, branchlets and twigs in late summer to early fall
- When first formed galls are pink to pinkish-brown outside and yellow inside. Inside tissues are soft and moist and become dry and brown by late fall
- In December to January adult wasps emerge by chewing holes in the gall bases, all are asexual females who then lay eggs in the terminals of new leaf shoots causing swollen leaf buds and leaf galls
- Spring galls produce both male and female adults that are about ⅓ the size of the asexual generation
- Galls grow in harmony with the natural growth of the live oak and cause no damage
- Galls provide homes to many beneficial insects when the gall insect leaves
- Other beneficial insects and parasites live in the gall at the same time with the *D. cinerosa* wasp



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4

Best Management Practices (BMP)

None required

Non-Chemical Control

- Natural predator parasites control most infestations
- Removing galls by hand is sufficient for small trees
- Plant resistant varieties

Chemicals control

- Chemicals not recommended as they do not penetrate the woody gall which protects the gall producing insect

Resources:

Texas AgriLife Extension Services



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Always remember to read and heed six of the most important words on the label:
“KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN”

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