

Sycamore Lace Bug

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FIG. 1

Type pest: piercing/ucking insect (*Corythucha ciliata* Say)

Type Metamorphous: simple (egg, nymphs, adult stages)

Period of Primary Occurrence: spring

- Lace bugs overwinter as adults in loose bark/cracks and begin their life cycle again with spring leaf out

Identifying Characteristics of Insect Pest

- Adults are whitish in color and about 1/8" length with highly ornamented wings and a hood-like structure covering the head (Fig. 3)
- The entire surface is covered with veins that resemble lace (Fig. 3)
- Immature nymphs are similar except they are smaller and often have spines
- Nymphs cluster together initially then move to new leaves in the fourth instar stage
- Adults and nymphs have piercing/sucking mouths

Description / Symptoms

- Upper parts of leaves display a bleached out, stippled appearance and then become almost white
- The undersides of the leaves are covered with black tar-like spots which is the excrement and dead skins of the insects
- Severe infestations may cause defoliation in late summer
- Heavy infestations are more common in urban areas than in natural settings
- Damage is more severe during dry weather
- Several years of heavy infestations along with other stresses can kill the tree
- Established trees can handle low to moderate infestations
- Newly planted or young trees do not tolerate damage as well



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4

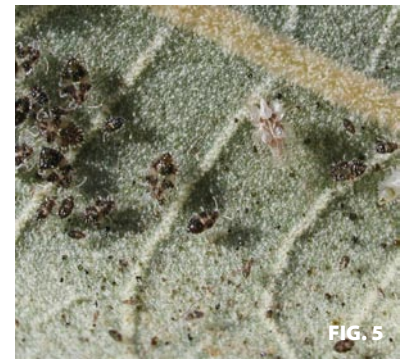
Best Management Practices (BMP)

NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Inspect leaves every two weeks during growing season, especially if there was damage in previous season
- Natural enemies of the sycamore lace bug include the following: assassin bugs, minute pirate bugs, lacewings, spiders and predaceous mites
- Spraying a strong stream of water from a hose to dislodge young nymphs as they hatch can control small populations

CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Chemical control is more effective before infestation becomes severe
- Homeowner insecticides include carbaryl (Sevin 50WP), malathion, acephate (Orthene), and permethrin
- As with all pesticides, read and follow all label directions and precautions
- Systemic insecticides like disulfoton or imidacloprid are recommended for severe infestation
- When spraying insecticides thoroughly cover leaves, particularly undersides



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Use pesticides only according to the directions on the label. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. If the information does not agree with current labeling, follow the label instructions. The label is the law.

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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