



Ash flower gall mite

Aceria fraxiniflora

Order Acari, Family Eriophyidae; leaf vagrant, gall, erineia, rust, or eriophyid mites

Native pest

Host plants: Ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.)

Description: Adult gall mites are approximately 0.2 mm long; they are carrot-shaped mites with two pairs of legs.

Life history: Female ash flower gall mites move to developing male flowers in the spring and stimulate gall formation by their feeding. Eggs are laid in the developing galls. Several generations occur during the summer.

Overwintering: Fertilized females in bud scales or under bark.

Damage symptoms: Ash flower gall mite stimulate great proliferation of flower buds on male ash trees. Infested flower clusters become deformed and remain on trees as green masses until fall.

Monitoring: Look for unsightly galls in male flowers.

Chemical control: Only aesthetic injury occurs. Oil or other chemicals may be sprayed at or just prior to bud break.

Biological control: No reports of natural enemies

Plant mortality risk: Low

Biorational pesticides: abamectin, horticultural oil, insecticidal soap

Conventional pesticides: bifenthrin, carbaryl, deltamethrin, dicofol, fenbutatin oxide, lambda-cyhalothrin



Deformed flower or gall on ash tree caused by ash flower gall mite. This mite feeds in the staminate (male) flowers of ash. Infested clusters become deformed and remain on trees as green masses until fall. (4)

Photo: John Davidson



Floral damage to green ash caused by ash flower gall mite. (5)
Photo: James Solomon, USDA Forest Service, The Bugwood Network, University of Georgia.