Barklice



TREE DOCTOR TIPS

Barklice (Psocids)

DESCRIPTION:

Barklice are small, dark-colored insects that produce fine, dense webbing on the trunks of host trees. Varying in color from tan to black, these pests may or may not have wings, and are usually less than five millimeters long.

HOSTS:

Barklice prefer the tree trunks of oaks and pecans.

BIOLOGY AND SYMPTOMS:

While the webbing barklice produce may look harmful to trees, these pests are not. Instead, they feed on lichens and algae growing on tree trunks. Their self-produced webbing helps protect them from their natural enemies.

MANAGEMENT:

There's no need to remove barklice and their webbing for the tree's health reasons. However, if desired, simply brush away with a broom or spray with a garden hose set on high-pressure.





FIGURES A. & B. BARKLICE WEBBING ON THE TRUNK OF A TREE

The scientists at The Davey Institute laboratory and research facility support our arborists and technicians in diagnosing and prescribing based on the latest arboricultural science. For specific treatment and application details, your arborist may consult The Davey Institute PHC Handbook.

