

Oak Galls

TREE DOCTOR TIPS

Oak Galls

DESCRIPTION:

Oak galls are abnormal plant growths found on foliage and twigs that are produced by small oak gall wasps. Shapes of galls vary from spherical to urn-shaped to star-shaped to fuzzy. Inside the galls are the eggs and larvae of the insects. Galls are made of plant material and vary in colors of yellow and green and turn tan-brown as the development continues. Galls will eventually brown and die once the adult insect emerges.

HOSTS:

Oak galls can be found on many species of oak trees.

BIOLOGY AND SYMPTOMS:

Galls are made of plant tissue and form when an insect secretes a chemical that causes interference with normal plant cell growth. Adults lay eggs in expanding tree buds and leaves in the spring. The larvae then feed, pupate and emerge from the gall as adult wasps. Fortunately, galls do not cause significant damage to trees. Some leaves may drop prematurely.

MANAGEMENT:

Pruning twigs that host oak galls is a simple and effective way to help stop the cycle. Galls on fallen leaves can also host the responsible insect, so it may also help to collect and destroy fallen leaves near infested trees. Once a gall has started forming, it is difficult to stop. Pesticides may be helpful in preventing gall producing insects. To see which management service is best for your oak trees, consult your local arborist.

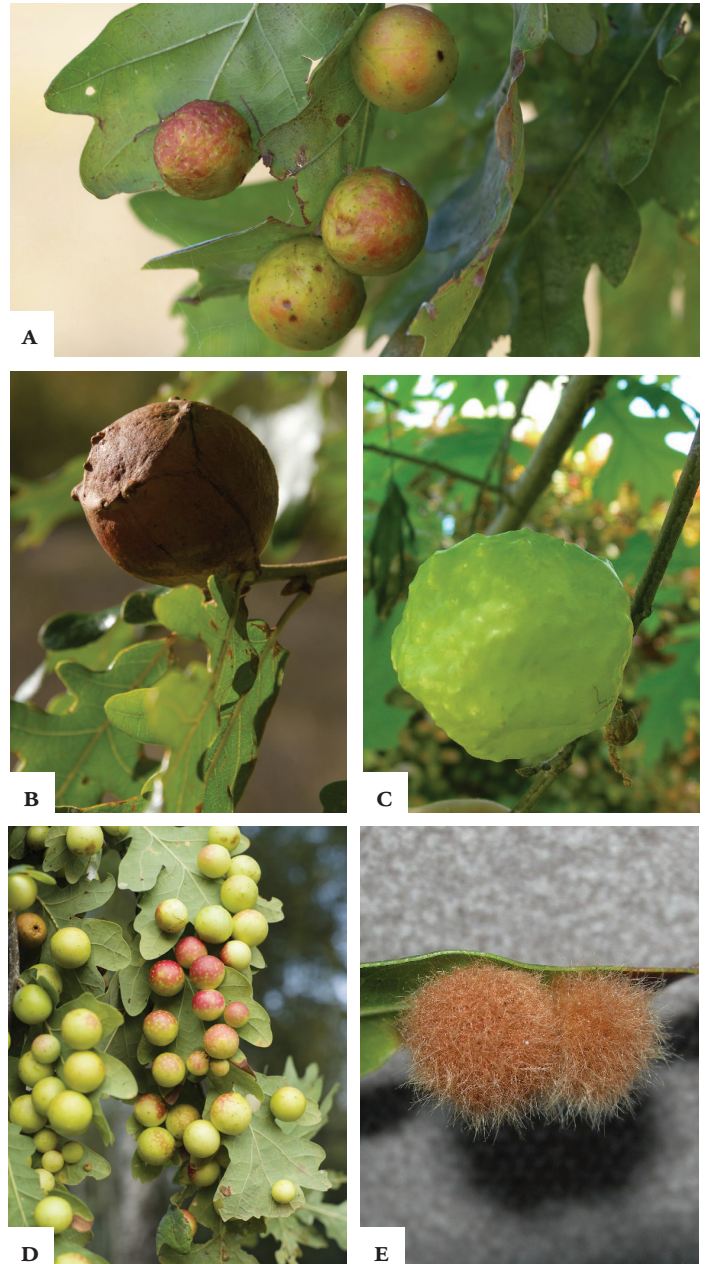


FIGURE A. GALLS OF *Cynips quercusfolii* ON OAK FOLIAGE

FIGURE B. CLOSE-UP, OAK GALL ON A BRANCH

FIGURE C. OAK APPLE GALL

FIGURE D. CLUSTERS OF OAK GALLS, MAKING THEM UNSIGHTLY TO TREES

FIGURE E. OAK GALLS, FUZZY

*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's Plant Health Care Book**.*

