

Pest Profile



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Common Name: California Gall Wasp or Gallfly

Scientific Name: *Andricus quercuscalifornicus*

Order and Family: Hymenoptera, Cynipidae

Size and Appearance:

| | Length (mm) | Appearance |
|--------------------|-------------|---|
| Egg | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laid within or on twigs |
| Larva/Nymph | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Found inside gall |
| Adult | 3-5mm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These wasps are small and brown, with clear wings Wings extend beyond the abdomen Antennae are filiform and about the same length as the legs Only parthenogenetic females are known |
| Gall | 80-120mm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known as Oak Apples Green, apple-like when formed in the spring Smooth exterior with spongy interior Turn brown as the season progresses until black and covered in sooty mold |

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Adult and larvae both have chewing mouthparts.

Host plant/s: White Oaks

Description of Damage (larvae and adult): Adult female gall wasps or midges deposit eggs in or on plant tissue. Gall development is poorly understood, but galls generally form several weeks or months after eggs hatch. Larvae feed under the plant tissue, their secretions induce abnormal growth of cells in the plant. Occasionally, galls may cause minor damage to leaves and stems.

In general, the galls and their wasps are not a major problem for oaks but are themselves food for other organisms such as birds and other insects.

References:

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