

Pest Profile



Photo credit: [Donald W. Hall](#), University of Florida, 2008

Common Name: Red Bay Psyllid

Synonyms: Jumping Plant – Lice, Bay Magnolia Psyllid

Scientific Name: *Trioza magnoliae* (Ashmead)

Order and Family: Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha: Psyllidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	Pollen grain size	Appearance is not known at this time. Estimated egg hatching time is 9.5 – 23 days.
Larva/Nymph	Early young nymphs are about 0.508 mm reaching over 2 mm when mature	Flattened and yellow becoming green in later instars. Older nymphs have orange wing pads, red eyes, short black antennae and waxy filaments.
Adult	3 - 4 mm	Greenish yellow body and legs with a pointed abdomen and sometimes brown stripes on the thorax. Antennae have 10 segments, wings are transparent with pale green veins.
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): The Red Bay psyllid has piercing – sucking mouth parts to obtain phloem.

Host plant/s: Sweetbay, (*Magnolia virginiana* L.); Red Bay (*Persea borbonia* (L.) Spreng) and other *Persea* bay species. These are an evergreen tree 3 – 10 m in height.

Description of Damage (nymph and adults): The female Red Bay psyllid lays her eggs just under the epidermis of the leaf, which are inserted by the ovipositor. Galls are formed by the developing eggs and nymphs at the margins of leaves. As the nymphs feed on the sap, the leaf starts curling and envelops the nymphs to form an elongated pocket-like gall at the edge of the leaf. This gall can be over ½ inch long. See the above photographs of the distorted leaves. The galls are greenish yellow in color, sometimes with a tinge of blue.

Damaged gall leaves are inclined to be smaller and deteriorate faster. When leaves on shoots are attacked with galls, less growth will occur as compared to leaves on shoots that are not attacked. Galled leaves can have negative impact on the growth of the plant and reproduction.

Galled leaves reduce the aesthetic value for owners and managers.

References:

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