



Citrus gall wasp update

This month we are looking at Citrus gall wasp. DAFWA is asking for reports of its presence outside of known areas to improve knowledge of its spread. It is currently known to be present in the Perth suburbs of Lockridge, Beechboro, Morley, Kiara, Embleton, Bayswater, Caversham and Eden Hill. The Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA) was first alerted to the presence of Citrus gall wasp in Western Australia following a report from an Eden Hill resident in 2013. It is believed to have been introduced into the state via infected nursery stock.



What to look for

The tiny native wasp is only 2-3mm in size, so the first indicator of its presence is galls which form around the developing larvae. Monitor between June and September (winter-early spring). Search for galls on young, green twigs (current season's population).

Galls on citrus trees, caused by citrus gall wasp (*Bruchophagus fellis*)

Galls located further up the branch or on older branches can indicate that there have been older infestations. The presence of holes within the gall indicates that adults have already emerged.

Galls can weaken trees, making them spindly and unproductive, whilst heavy infestations can reduce crop yield and cause branch dieback.



Management

Prune out branches with galls and mulch, burn or deep bury them. Disposal in normal household waste can spread the pest.

As the wasp prefers to lay eggs into young, flushing growth, it is important to reduce the amount of spring leaf flush.

Over-fertilising (particularly heavy nitrogen applications) can promote excessive amounts of spring flush.

Natural enemies

Biological control has been extremely effective in Queensland and New South Wales but natural enemies have not yet been established in WA. In spring 2015, DAFWA released parasitic wasps, *Megastigmus brevivalvus* and *M. trisulcus*, which attack the eggs. Follow up surveys are planned in 2016 to determine if they have established.

For more information search 'citrus gall wasp' on the DAFWA website agric.wa.gov.au

Reporting unfamiliar pests

The Department's Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) screens enquiries for new weeds, pests and plant diseases, which could negatively impact the success of WA's local horticulture and agricultural industries and the ability to grow home produce.

You can report biosecurity concerns or unfamiliar pests using our free smartphone & tablet apps or online! See: mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au. The **MyPestGuide Reporter** app is available from [Google Play Store](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=au.gov.agric.mypestguide) and [Apple iTunes Store](https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/mypestguide-reporter/id1011111111). You can also contact us direct if you have concerns about unfamiliar weeds, pests or plant diseases.

Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS). info@agric.wa.gov.au. 1800 084 881
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