Poplar Bud Gall Mites
FACT SHEET

GREEN DROP Tree Care

What They Are:

Poplar bud gall mites (Aceria parapopuli) create hard, woody, cauliflower-like growths (galls) covered in hairs on poplars, cottonwoods, and aspens, but can be found on all species, typically on the lower tree branches.

They can produce eight or more generations annually. As unsightly as these mites and galls may be, they rarely kill mature trees. Although, they may stunt new growth and branches if infested.

Life Cycle:

Poplar bud gall mites spend their winters inside of the galls, and in early spring are hatched from eggs. They migrate to attack new buds and unfolding leaves during the spring by sucking the sap from the tissue, causing galls to develop as a protective structure. By late summer, these galls become dry, hard, and a brick-red colour. Galls can have active mites for 1-4 years; it may grow up to 4 cm in diameter and be home to over 3000 mites.

Prevention/ Maintenance:

- Prune infested branches and galls before spring, make sure to burn or bury them as composting may allow mites to return.
- Chemical control.
- Maintain tree health by fertilizing and proper watering.
- Plant resistant species.





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