Spruce Gall Adelgids
FACT SHEET

GREEN DROP Tree Care





What they are:

Eastern spruce gall adelgid (Adelges abietis) and the Cooley spruce gall adelgid (Adelges cooleyi) feed on plant juices, causing an irritation that results in plant tissue developing into cone-like galls characteristic in form and shape for the aphid species involved. Over winter on spruce in nymph (eggs) stage. In spring, they come out of dormancy, and move to new growth and feed excreting all enzyme which forms a gall (enclosing themselves). In late summer, the gall opens releasing adults with wings. Then they fly to a fir tree (alternate host – no major damage here). They come back to spruce to lay eggs and over winter.

Symptoms:

In Spring, nymphs hatched near the buds sting the new needles. The needles enlarge and form a pineapple-shaped gall. The gall is initially light green in colour with red spots, turns brown and dries out at the end of the summer. The presence of galls causes distortions of the twigs and the crown ultimately becomes misshapen.

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Prevention:

Watering & Fertilizing



Maintain a good vigour of your spruce by fertilizing them annually and watering them regularly.

Chemical Treatment



Apply Dormant Oil in spring or fall.

Contact

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