

Problem: Ash Flower Gall Mite (*Aceria fraxiniflora* Felt)



Hosts: Ash

Description: Though most galls are caused by insects, this one is caused by an eriophyid mite, *Eriophyes fraxinivorus*. These tiny mites (about 0.5 mm long) feed on the male flower clusters of ash early in the season, transforming the male flowers into irregular, fringed masses. These masses persist for up to two years and become more noticeable when the leaves drop in the fall. The masses will be green early in the season they form but will turn black as they dry.

Recommendations: As with most galls, the Ash Flower Gall is unsightly but does not harm the health of the tree. The mites are also difficult to control because they are able to enter the flower bud before it is visibly open. Therefore, control measures are not recommended.

References:

1. [Insect and Mite Galls](#), University of Minnesota Extension
2. [Insect and Mite Galls](#), Colorado State University, Factsheet no. 5.557

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