

**Problem:** Maple Bladder Gall Mite - *Vasates quadripedes*



**Hosts:** Maples.

**Description:**

Bright red bladder-shaped growths on the top of maple leaves are evidence of the Maple Bladder Gall mite. Adult mites overwinter beneath loosened bark and callous growth repairing damage from wounds, scars and pruned branches. In early spring, the mites move to newly developing leaves and begin feeding. The pouch-like galls develop in response to this feeding activity. Initially, the galls are green but gradually turn red and then black. Adults deposit eggs in the galls as they feed. Eventually, the adults and their progeny will leave the gall in search of newly forming leaves so that they may continue the cycle. Mite activities drop off as summer heat arrives.

**Recommendations:** The galls may be unsightly but do not damage the maple trees. Therefore the need for control is questionable. Also, spraying must start before the galls are formed to be effective.

If control is still desired, use a dormant spray to drench the trunk before the leaves open in the spring. If the tree has broken dormancy before the spray is applied, leaf and twig damage can occur.

**References:**

1. [Maple Bladder Gall Mite](#), Oregon State University, Pacific Northwest Nursery IPM,
2. [Galls of Maple Trees in Ohio](#), Ohio State University publication ENT-60

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