Mango leaf gall midge

What is it?

The eggs of the mango leaf-gall midge (Procontarinia matteiana) are laid into the tissue of tender leaves. Oviposition sites are marked by small reddish spots, and the tissue of the leaf under these spots becomes hypertrophied and soft. Gall formation begins within a week, and attain their maximum diameter of 3-4 mm before the larva is even 0.5 mm. Adults usually emerge from the lower side of the leaves, leaving the pupal skin protruding from the emergence hole. Heavy oviposition in leaves causes them to dry and curl up.

What damage does it cause?

The mango leaf-gall midge produces wart-like galls on leaves which reduce photosynthesis and cause leaf drop. Young trees can be killed and older trees do not recover normal growth after repeated attacks.

Where is it found?

The mango gall fly or mango leaf gall midge is indigenous to India and has spread via imported mango plants to Mauritius, Kenya, Reunion, South Africa and Malaysia. Significant damage to mango plants by the pest has been reported in Mauritius.
How can I protect my orchard from the mango leaf gall midge?

Check your orchard frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common mango pests so you can tell if you see something different.

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

Galls on leaves caused by the mango leaf gall midge

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Want more info?
If you would like more information, or to download a copy of the Industry Biosecurity Plan for the Mango Industry, visit www.planhealthaustralia.com.au, email admin@phau.com.au or phone (02) 6215 7700.