

Pear psyllid

What is it?

Pear psylla, *Cacopsylla pyricola*, is the most important insect pest of pear, although it is usually more of a problem on European varieties than Asian varieties. Pear psylla also transmits the disease Pear decline (not present in Australia), which can cause death of the tree.

What to look for

The eggs are yellowish orange and about 0.3 mm long. They are deposited in the creases of the bark, in old leaf scars and around buds. They are pear-shaped, elongated and have a smooth, shiny surface. Small, yellow, wingless nymphs are about 3 mm long when newly hatched. They have red eyes and turn green, then brown as they mature. The nymphs feed and develop primarily on the newer, more tender growth. The adults are dark reddish brown and have four wings and resemble a tiny cicada.



Larvae covered with honeydew

Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University,
Bugwood.org



Local lesions on leaves produced by psyllid feeding

Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University,
Bugwood.org



Apple & Pear Australia Ltd.



Adult pear psylla

Jack Kelly Clark, UC Statewide IPM Project



Pear psylla eggs

Jack Kelly Clark, UC Statewide IPM Project



Honeydew from a pear psylla infestation causes sooty mold to grow

Jack Kelly Clark, UC Statewide IPM Project

Damage

The main source of economic injury is to the fruit. The pear psylla secretes large amounts of honeydew, which runs down over foliage and fruit and in which a sooty fungus grows. This causes the skin of the fruit to become blackened and scarred and the leaves to develop brown spots. Excessive feeding and the injection of toxic saliva by large populations may cause partial to complete defoliation of trees, reducing vitality and preventing the formation of fruit buds. This type of injury is called "psylla shock". Return bloom and fruit yield are often reduced the following season.

Where is it found?

Pear psylla is widespread throughout Europe and is present in all pear growing regions in the United States and Canada.

How can I protect my orchard from the Pear psyllid?

Check your farm frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common pome fruit 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.



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