

Fact sheet

Oriental chestnut gall wasp

What is the Oriental chestnut gall wasp?

The Oriental chestnut gall wasp (*Dryocosmus kuriphilus*) (also called Asian chestnut gall wasp) is a small black coloured wasp that lays its eggs in the buds of chestnuts. This induces the formation of green to rose coloured galls that reach 20 mm in diameter. After the adult wasps emerge these dry out and eventually fall from the tree.

As buds are affected severe infestations can cause significant yield losses of up to 70%, and in some cases can cause the death of the tree. For this reason, the Oriental chestnut gall wasp is considered to be the most significant insect pest of chestnuts worldwide.

What does it look like?

The adult is a small 2.5-3 mm long, black wasp. The most obvious sign of the wasp is the presence of green to rose coloured galls that reach 20 mm in diameter. When cross sectioned small white grubs may be visible inside the gall.

What can it be confused with?

There are no endemic pests of chestnut that create symptoms that resemble the galls caused by this pest.

What should I look for?

Look for signs of galls on your chestnut trees. Any galls should be reported for diagnosis.

How does it spread?

This pest can be spread by the movement of grafting material. The adults are also capable of flight allowing for localised spread.



Gyorgy Csoka, Hungary Forest Research Institute, Bugwood.org

Adult wasp



Ayanava Majumdar, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Bugwood.org

Young gall caused by Oriental chestnut gall wasp.



Ignacio Graziosi, University of Kentucky, Bugwood.org

Severe infestations can affect most of the buds on the tree causing large yield losses



Cross sectioned gall showing larvae

Jerry A. Payne, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

Where is it now?

The Oriental chestnut gall wasp is native to Asia (China, Japan and Korea). It has recently been introduced into the United States and Europe.

How can I protect my farm from Oriental chestnut gall wasps?

You can protect your orchard from Oriental chestnut gall wasps by checking your trees frequently for the presence of any galls and by only using planting material from known sources. Make sure you are familiar with the symptoms of common pests so you can tell if you see something different.



Galls caused by Oriental chestnut gall wasp

Fano Stergaci, Università di Udine, Bugwood.org

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881**



Developing galls on chestnut. Note swellings at the base of the bud

Ignazio Graziosi, University of Kentucky, Bugwood.org

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