

BIOLOGY AND CONTROL OF HONEYLOCUST POD GALL MIDGE

The honeylocust pod gall midge, *Dasineura gleditschiae*, is a tiny black midge, or fly, that is a pest of honeylocust trees in Oregon, and occurs across the US wherever honeylocust are grown. Larvae feed on expanding leaflets causing them to thicken and deform into pod-like galls. Injured leaves may drop prematurely. Trees are seldom killed but may be so deformed that they lose their ornamental value.

Multiple generations occur each year and each new generation will infest new growth.

Flies first appear in spring when new growth begins. If left untreated damage can occur all season. Generation time (egg to egg) can be as little as 3 weeks and will continue as long as new growth appears. Larvae will not feed on fully expanded leaves. The cultivars 'Sunburst', 'Imperial', 'Skyline' and 'Thornless' are particularly susceptible to injury, but there are no known immune varieties.

CONTROL: It is critical to maintain insecticide coverage on newly expanding foliage to control this insect. This may mean applications every 2-3 weeks during much of the season. However, if a thorough-coverage application is made at the first flush of new growth in the spring and then is followed 3 weeks later with another application, the population may be sufficiently suppressed to achieve season-long control.

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In chemical trials conducted in Colorado the most effective insecticides were synthetic pyrethroids (Karate, Talstar, Pydrin, Ambush/Pounce, and Mavrik). Karate does not currently have an ornamentals label. Metasystox-R, Dursban and Diazinon gave acceptable control as well. Orthene was ineffective.

Pesticide Use - Due to constantly changing laws and regulations, no liability for the suggested use of chemicals in this Newsletter is assumed by the ONW Newsletter. Pesticides should be applied according to label directions on the pesticide container.

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