

Problem: Lace Bugs - *Corythucha ciliata*



Hosts: Primarily cotoneaster and sycamore but ash, hickory, oak, hawthorn and mulberry may be affected.

Description: The wings of the adult overlap slightly and lie flat over the back. They resemble lace under magnification. All stages of the insect develop on the undersides of the leaves, where they suck the sap. Adults are about 1/8 inch long. Under heavy infestations, stippling damage becomes evident. From a distance, the leaves appear to have a whitish cast. The leaves lose their green color, becoming pale and the undersides of the leaves may become speckled with brownish-black excrement spots and cast nymphal skins.

Adults overwinter in bark crevices and other sheltered areas of the host plant. The adults become active about the time the new leaves appear. Females deposit the eggs on the underside of the leaves with hatching occurring in about 2 weeks. Nymphs continue to feed on the host through all instars. After about 30 days, the final molt takes place and the nymphs become adults. After mating, the cycle repeats. There are probably three generations in Kansas.

Recommendations: Lace bug damage is more of an aesthetic distraction than an actual detriment to tree health and therefore treatments are not necessary to protect the tree. If treatments are applied, they need to be timed to prevent damage. Contact insecticides are often used for control. Direct the spray under the leaf where the lace bugs feed.

References:

1. [Lace Bug on Deciduous Woody Ornamental Plants](#), Penn State Fact Sheet, Department of Entomology
2. [Lace Bugs](#), North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension, Department of Entomology Insect Note
3. Life Histories of Common Insects, Mites and Nematodes Infesting Ornamental Plants in Missouri, Missouri Department of Agriculture, pg A-9

Last Update: 11/6/2023

Brand names appearing in this publication are for product identification purposes only. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

“Knowledge for Life”

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service