



AUGUST 31, 2021

FOREST HEALTH PEST ALERT

OAK LACE BUG

The Issue:

Over the past month, we have noticed browning oak trees (Figure 1) across the landscape. After completing ground surveys and collecting samples, we have identified the culprit to be the **native forest pest**, the oak lace bug.

Identification and Biology:

The oak lace bug is a native forest pest. They are within the Hemipteran insect order and therefore are equipped with a piercing/sucking mouthpart. Adults (Figure 2) are 1/8" long and light brown with dark spotting along the wings. The juveniles or nymphs are smaller in size, darker in coloration, and are covered in spines. Each female lays 25-50 eggs on the lower leaf surface which will hatch into nymphs (Figure 3) that feed together with the adults as they grow. Several generations occur each year and they overwinter as adults.

Hosts:

All species of oaks, with preference for the white oak group, as well as other hardwood species. Damage during surveys was mainly seen on chinkapin oak.

Symptoms:

Symptoms begin as light stippling of the foliage (Figure 4), but can progress to complete bleaching (Figure 5) of leaves from the top down. Leaf drop can occur with heavy damage.

Distribution:

Feeding damage from this insect has been observed in the following counties: Franklin, Owen, Carroll, Gallatin, Boone, Jefferson, and Shelby. If you see any additional damages, please report.

Recommendation:

No management is needed as trees can typically handle this type of feeding damage and should bounce back next year.

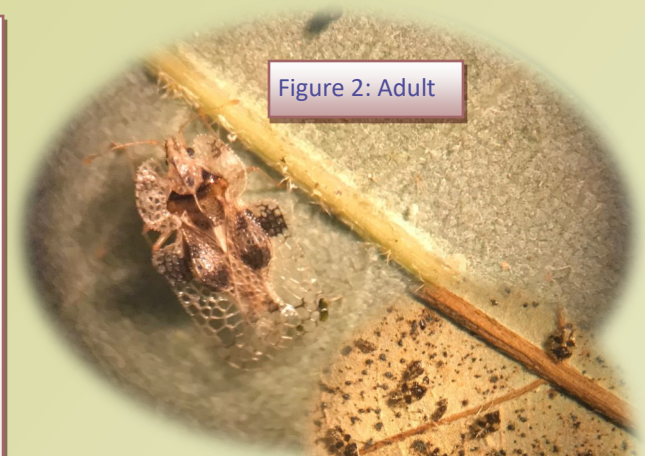


Figure 2: Adult

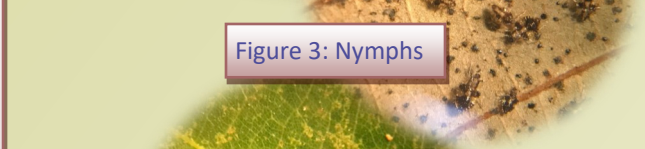


Figure 3: Nymphs

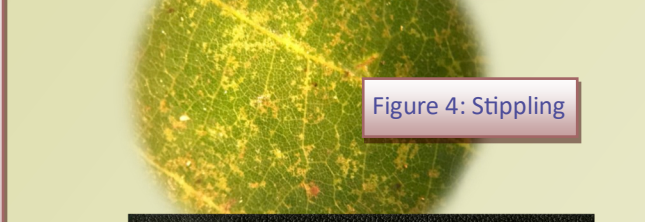


Figure 4: Stippling



Figure 5: Bleaching



Figure 1: Browning oak trees

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