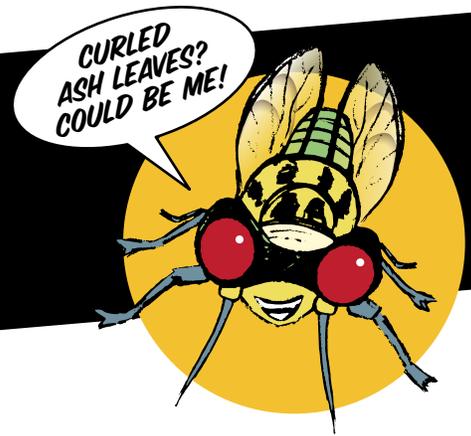


Protect Manitoba's trees. Watch out for Cottony ash psyllid.



Cottony ash psyllid (CAP) is an invasive insect that has been found in several Manitoba communities. The CAP infects Manchurian ash trees, black ash trees, and hybrids of these two species. It is not known to occur or cause damage to green ash. This insect is thought to originate from eastern Europe and has been reported in Alberta, Saskatchewan and North Dakota. Surveys to find additional infestations are ongoing.

What do CAPs look like?

Adults:

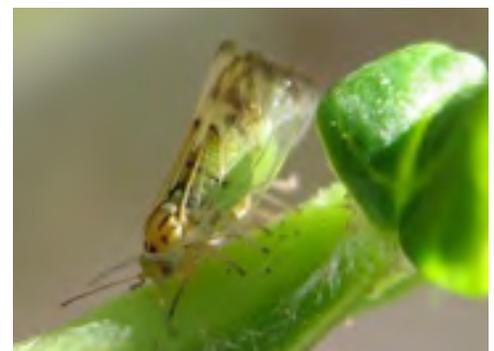
- are small; three millimetres in length
- have yellow and black markings, resembling large aphids
- have clear wings with shading towards the tips
- can jump

How to recognize the presence of CAPs:

Due to their small size, their presence is usually noticed only when trees start showing stress. You'll see:

- thinning in the upper portion of the tree
- browning, yellowing and curling along the edge of leaves indicating a first generation psyllid population
- curled and misshapen leaves
- a cottony substance found within the curled leaves indicating a second generation psyllid population
- heavily damaged leaves can have a cauliflower appearance
- leaves may drop prematurely

Over time, their presence will weaken the ash trees, making them vulnerable to other illnesses and predisposing them to a premature death.



Enlarged image of an adult CAP



First signs of CAPs are curled leaves with yellow and brown discoloration



The cottony substance produced by CAPs on the underside of leaves

Cottony Ash Psyllid Facts

Eggs laid in the trees, hatch in spring and the nymphs (immature insects) start feeding on the growing leaves. At this stage, when feeding on new leaves, they suck out the sap causing the leaves to curl, and produce a white cottony substance.

Around July, they are adults and lay eggs which will hatch in August. The second generation nymphs feed in the curled leaves that were created by the first generation. This actually provides them with a measure of protection from any spray applications.

What can you do?

- Psyllids are difficult to control, because they are hidden under the curled leaves for a large portion of their life cycle.
- Drought stressed trees may be more vulnerable to damage from this pest. Keeping trees healthy by watering and avoiding additional stresses could help reduce CAP impacts.
- Insecticide treatments may be available. It is best to get quotes from a licensed arborist for possible treatment options.



An ash tree that has a severe CAP infestation



Sample leaves of a CAP infested ash tree



For more information, or if you suspect you see signs of CAP call Manitoba Sustainable Development's tree care line at :

204-945-7866