

## COTTONY ASH PSYLLID

Also known as *Psyllopsis discrepans*, Cottony Ash Psyllid is a European insect that attacks young Black and Manchurian Ash trees. Green Ash seem to be unaffected. Symptoms include curled or “cauliflowered” leaves and premature leaf drop. Feeding nymphs are surrounded by a cottony mass inside the curled leaves.



The first generation of insects feed until mid-July and a second generation will feed until late August. Eggs overwinter on tree twigs.

Early treatment of young nymphs can be done with a spray of insecticidal soap from mid to late June and again from mid to late July. This has to be done before the leaf curl is advanced or else the soap cannot penetrate into the cottony mass to kill the nymphs.

Reducing tree stress is critical to manage this pest and must be done usually in conjunction with spraying. Black and Manchurian ash prefer moist conditions so be sure they are planted in a suitable spot so they don't struggle. Mulching will help conserve water and provide nutrients, which promotes root growth “Healthy Roots Make Healthy Shoots”. Place 3-4 inches of mulch around the base of the tree at least 4 feet in diameter or to the drip line, being careful not to bury the trunk. The larger the mulched area the better the tree will perform. Water the tree slowly and thoroughly around the drip line when rain is limited and water in well before winter. Watering at a slow rate (trickle) for longer periods encourages roots to grow deeper where soil moisture is generally higher and more stable. Choosing alternative ash trees is also a proactive way to deal with this pest. Green ash and White ash are hardy trees adapted to drier upland conditions.

For more information or help in diagnosing Cottony Ash Psyllid contact the Urban Forester at 403-938-8958.