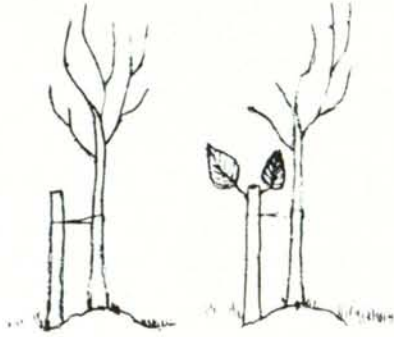




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SPRAYING IS THE ANSWER

Silver maple tree leaves covered with small red, green and black bumps are the result of maple bladder galls, says Donald L. Schuder, Purdue University extension entomologist.

Better spray now to prevent their recurrence, he advises. These abnormal growths are caused by small microscopic mites which feed on the foliage. Mite-feeding stimulates plant cells in such a manner that they form galls which serve to protect the mites.

The wart-like growths may occur singly or in clusters. They may become abundant enough to cause the foliage to appear gnarled and deformed. But even so, they seldom cause enough damage to affect the vigor of the tree, says Schuder.

Galls may be prevented by tree spraying just before bud break. Spraying at this time destroys the mites which overwinter in the cracks and crevices of the tree's bark. Spraying must be done, however, before new leaves are formed, or the mites will feed and galls develop.

The entomologist recommends application of one quart of either malathion or lindane emulsion concentrate per 100 gallons of water. Dormant sprays of a superior oil or liquid lime sulfur are also effective.

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