

## LEAF GALLS ON SHADE TREES

Galls are abnormal growths which occur on many plants. Galls come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors depending on the insect, disease or environmental condition that caused them. According to Stacy Lee Barden-Chavez, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County, those galls caused by insects are most common. A chemical reaction takes place between the insect and plant thus forming a gall. Although insect galls are unsightly, they really don't hurt shade trees.

Succulent oak galls are common this year on pin oaks and other oaks. These galls appear as green growths at the base of the leaves. Tiny non-stinging wasps lay eggs on the leaves. In the spring when the eggs hatch, the larvae burrow into the leaves thereby causing leaves to form galls around the insect. Usually the oak leaves will continue to develop to full size. Galls are not produced again until the following spring. Honey locust pod galls are actually deformed leaflets. Leaflets become small green to reddish balls about 1/8 inch in diameter. These galls are caused by a fly which lays its egg on the leaves. Throughout the summer the fly will have several generations each time producing more galls. The thornless varieties of honey locust seem to be the favorite of the flies.

Maple bladder galls appear in the spring as green-pin head sized lumps on the upper surface of leaves on maples and box elders. These galls are caused by mites which have several generations throughout the summer. When the galls first appear they are green but shortly turn red.

Hackberry nipple galls are caused by psyllids a close relative of the aphid. In the spring the adult lays their eggs on hackberry leaves. The immature psyllid emerges from these

eggs causing a green nipple-like gall to form around them as the leaves develop. Only one generation is produced each summer.

Generally, says Mr. Chavez, control measures are not recommended for gall producing creatures, since galls on leaves usually cause no apparent harm to the tree. However, malathion spray may be applied in spring to control the gall producing insects on maples, hackberries and oaks. This spray reduces the amount of galls that may appear on the plants. Although the appearance of the leaves may be different from normal, seldom is the gall infestation large enough to be noticeable except by close inspection.

Credit: THE BULL SHEET

## 18th ANNUAL WISCONSIN GOLF TURF SYMPOSIUM

The 18th Annual Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium will be held at the Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, on October 26 and 27, 1983. The subject will be, "Facts and Fallacies in Poa annua Management". Subject matter will range from protection of Poa annua through new methods of suppression to replacement with other species. The program is expected to give an update on all angles of Poa annua production or control (?). More information will be forthcoming as it is developed.

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