

A HEALTHY TREE is a HAPPY TREE

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Lace Bugs

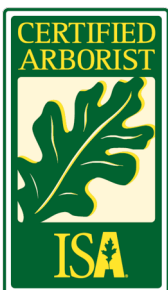
Description: There are more than thirty reported lace bug species in North Carolina. Most are not considered a pest. Lace bugs cause a blotched or spotted appearance of the upper leaf surface, however, immature (nymph) and adult lace bugs are found mostly on the underside of leaves. Spots of excrement resembling dark varnish are a distinguishing characteristic and appear on the underside of the leaves. Infested leaves turn yellow and may drop off prematurely. Adult lace bugs have lace-like wings and an expanded, lacy hood back of the head. Several different species of lace bugs are found in North Carolina. Most of them produce two or more generations in a year.



Symptoms: Symptoms of damage are chlorotic or yellowish blotches on the upper leaf surface. Severe damage can cause the entire leaf surface to take on a yellow or bronze coloration. The damage is similar to that caused by spider mites. A sure way to differentiate the two pests is to look at the underside of the leaves. Lace bugs always feed on the underside of the leaf. The lower leaf surface will be covered with shiny, black spots of excrement, egg fragments, and cast skins. These diagnostic signs will be present even if the insects have left the leaf. Heavy populations can severely weaken a tree or shrub making it more susceptible to other problems.

Control: Repeated applications of some insecticides may be needed to control lace bugs effectively. Make the first application as soon as nymphs appear in the spring. Follow with a second application 7 to 10 days later if needed. Repeat as needed at monthly intervals. Thorough coverage is essential when applying sprays if good control is expected. Make sure the undersides of the leaves are covered.

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