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About gallmakers

Rufus Isaacs, MSU Entomology

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Many galls of various shapes occur on grapevines as a result of attack by small flies (gall midges). Galls can occur on leaves, tendrils and blossom buds. Numerous species of gall midges attack grape. No practical control for these galls is known, though removing the galls by hand and destroying them would reduce future populations.

Gallmakers on leaves

Grape cane gallmaker

Gallmakers on leaves

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Galls are formed by larvae of small cecidomyiid flies, which lay their eggs into the leaf. Infestations are generally spotty, both within vineyards and within infested vines, and they rarely cause significant economic damage. There may be one to three generations per year. The life cycle begins with eggs laid within the unfolding buds or shoot tips. Orange, maggotlike larvae hatch from these eggs and enter the vine tissue. As the larvae feed, galls form around them.



Galls are formed by various fly species. Each makes a characteristically shaped gall. Above left are grape tumid galls and above right, pointed galls.

Grape cane gallmaker

Rufus Isaacs, MSU Entomology

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The grape cane gall-maker is a sporadic pest of grapes in the eastern United States. This insect produces noticeable red galls on new shoot growth just above nodes. The majority of galls are beyond the fruit clusters and cause no serious yield loss. Canes with galls can still produce a crop the following year.

The adult is a dark brown snout beetle about 1/8 inch (4 mm) long that looks like the grape cane girdler. The legless grub is white with a brown head and slightly larger when full grown.



Adult gallmaker on grape shoot.



Evidence of damage on old wood.



Obvious red galls produced after the beetle lays eggs.