

Citrus Gall Wasp

The suburban backyard citrus tree is under attack at the moment from the native citrus gall wasp. Generally found in NSW the wasp has migrated down to Victoria.

According to recent media reports Melbourne is in an epidemic.

The wasp injects its eggs into the branch and the tree reacts by swelling and forming a gall, giving the eggs more room to grow.

When the wasps emerge from the gall they damage the tree causing it to look ugly. Repeated Gall Wasp attacks will weaken and cause the tree to become unproductive and eventually die.

Emerging wasps will then reinfest the host tree and any other citrus trees in the area.

Monitor citrus for infestation between June and September when galls are at their largest and visible.

Prune galls as they appear. Prune below the affected area.

Wrap cuttings in plastic bags and put into the rubbish bin. **Do Not** put into the green waste bin.

After removing all of the affected branches, fertilise the tree with a good citrus fertiliser to encourage new growth.



Gall on a Citrus tree branch



Eggs within the gall



Gall Wasp

