

Lerp Psyllid

Did you know?

The redgum lerp psyllid was found in Los Angeles in 1998 and has spread throughout much of California. Psyllids are plant-juice sucking homopterans in the insect family Psyllidae. Redgum lerp psyllid nymphs (immatures) form a cover called a “lerp,” which is a small white, hemispherical cap composed of solidified honeydew and wax.

Identifying Redgum Lerp Psyllid and their damage

- Lerps on leaves can be up to about 1/8 inch in diameter and 1/12-inch-tall and resemble an armored scale
- Adults are about 1/8-inch-long, slender, and light green to brownish with orangish and yellow blotches
- Unlike other psyllids in California, redgum lerp psyllid adults have relatively long forward projections (called genal cones) on each side of their head below their eyes
- High redgum lerp psyllid populations secrete copious honeydew and cause premature leaf drop
- Extensive defoliation weakens trees, can increase tree susceptibility to damage from other insects and diseases affecting eucalyptus, and contributes to premature death of some highly susceptible species

How to keep your trees vigorous to reduce attacks

- Providing adequate irrigation and limiting nitrogen can reduce susceptibility to damage
- Systemic insecticides have sometimes provided control, but efficacy has been variable and sometimes disappointing
- Don't wait until infestations are severe to monitor trees because cultural practices such as changes in irrigation or nitrogen application are primarily preventive and must be applied early



An adult Eucalyptus Redgum Lerp Psyllid



Redgum Lerp Psyllid feed on Eucalyptus