

Plant galls insect homes

By M. K. Sears
Department of
Environmental Biology
Home gardeners occasionally find abnormal spiny or woolly growths on stems and leaves of various trees and shrubs around their home. These are most often galls caused by certain insects feeding within the plant tissues.

What is remarkable about these little domiciles which the plant forms around the irritating insect parasite is their distinctiveness. Each species of gall-forming insect causes the plant to form a structure which is unique and consistent. Irritation caused by the insect's feeding or chemical secretions are thought to be the cause of such a specific response by the plant. People have marvelled at

the weird shapes of plant galls they have collected. What may be even more interesting in the complex biology of the insects which cause the plant to produce the gall.

Over 1,500 different gall insects have been identified in North America and the shapes of the galls which they produce seem unlimited. They produce galls on every conceivable part of the plant from the roots and stems to leaves and flowers. Four major groups of insects and their relatives produce galls — aphids, midges, wasps and mites.

In Ontario, there are a couple of dozen galls most commonly encountered. By far the largest number of different galls occur on oak trees, characteristic members of our southern Ontario

deciduous forests. Such descriptive names as oak apples, hedgehog galls, woolly galls, horned galls and gouty galls are given to those distinctive structures commonly found on oaks and which are all produced by a specialized group of gall wasps.

Each species has a characteristic life cycle as illustrated by the complex cycle of the horned oak gall wasp.

In the spring, female wasps lay their eggs on the leaf veins. Feeding by the small larvae which hatch, causes swollen vein galls on the underside of the leaf. A second generation of wasps emerge from these galls and deposit their eggs on young twigs. The larvae from these eggs cause the tree to produce small spherical galls which, after two years, sprout the characteristic spines or horns of the mature gall. It is from these structures the females causing the leaf galls, eventually emerge.

Many other plants provide the correct habitat for other

species of gall forming insects. Galls with such descriptive names as elm cockscomb leaf galls and witch-hazel leaf galls are caused by gall-making aphids. Honeylocust pod galls and willow cone galls are produced by different species of midges. Mossy rose galls are produced by the feeding of a wasp while the red-colored bladder and spindle galls on maple leaves result from mites feeding on the young emerging leaves.

Conifers, such as spruce and fir, are not immune to gall-forming insects. Gall aphids are responsible for the

pineapple-like structure commonly found on the new growth of spruce trees.

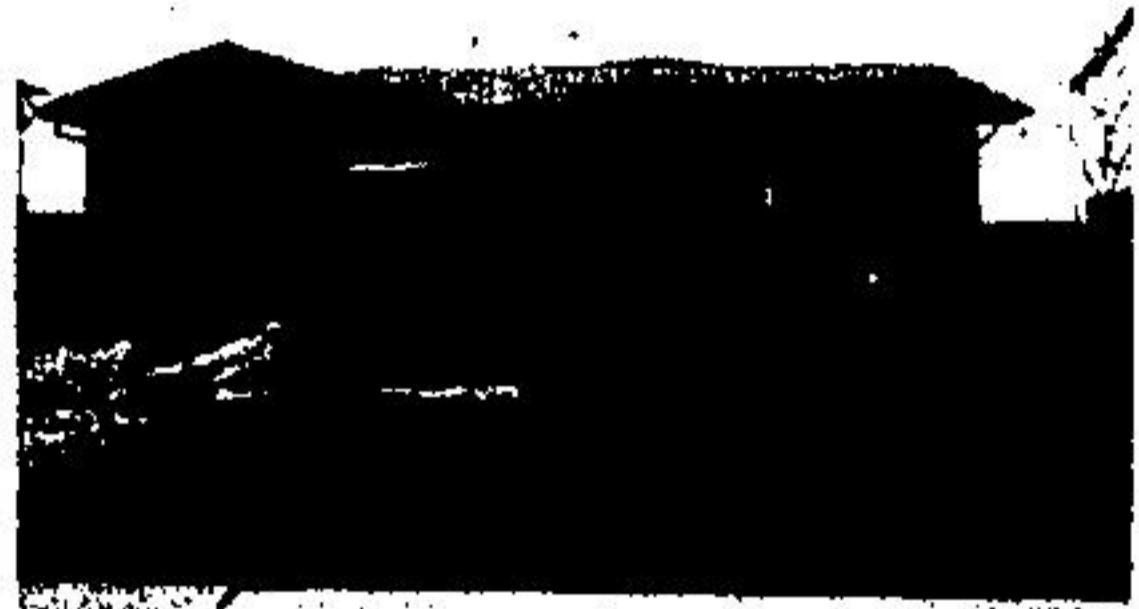
Although the list is long and there seems to be a gall-producing insect for each plant species, they are not regarded as serious pests of trees and shrubs. Reducing damage caused by gall formation through the use of insecticides is difficult because of the need for accurately-timed applications.

A simple, but effective means of eliminating damage by gall insect is to remove the young galls and destroy them before the inhabitants emerge.

DAWE
GORDON B. REAL ESTATE BROKER

25 MILL STREET EAST
ACTON, ONTARIO
L7J 1H1
(519) 853-3790

Warner



PRIVACY WITHOUT ISOLATION in MILTON

This three bedroom backsplit features an extra large lot (50 x 150), family room, fenced yard, upgraded cushion flooring in kitchen & foyer. Asking \$66,900.

COUNTRY SPECIAL

Set on a beautiful 5 acre lot. Features 4 bedrooms with kitchen, dining and living combination. North of Georgetown. Open fireplace, sundeck with walkout from combination. This property must be seen to be appreciated at \$99,000.

DON'T MISS THIS ONE

100 Acre farm between Acton and Rockwood. 70 acres workable land, nice cedar bush with spring at rear of property, man made pond near barn. House has been newly redecorated. Asking \$158,500.

For all your real estate needs you can be

*Winners with
Warners'*

**JUNE WARNER
REAL ESTATE LIMITED**
476 Steeles Avenue, Milton

MILTON 878-8188 TORONTO 826-9707

Stella Hall	878-4339	Joey Cram	878-3287
Bill O'Neil	878-2879	June Warner	853-2918
Gerry Rotzel	877-3198	John Maier	878-0178



SCENIC VIEW

Imagine this two storey custom built home with 2400 square feet on each floor. 17' wide balcony, with walkouts from the master bedroom and dining room. Two stone fireplaces (floor to ceiling). Huge living room and dining room, study, 4 bedrooms with room for 2 more, large modern kitchen, same floor laundry room, 3 washrooms, 6' wide halls, large open foyer with spiral stairs. Extra rooms for billiards, workshop etc.. You can see the beautiful countryside for miles, on 11.8 acres. Paved drive. Barn 35x60, Central Air and many more features. \$149,000.



18 ACRES \$89,900.

Ranch bungalow, featuring separate dining room, living room with fireplace, modern kitchen and 3 bedrooms, recreation room, with fireplace. Private office. The left wing can easily be converted to a separate apartment for your own special needs or just for those extra additions to your family. The versatile land has both mixed bush and open fields. Bring an offer TODAY.



2 STOREY SOLID BRICK

This home is presently duplexed with an income that would go a long way to pay the mortgage. Ideal for that starter home or can be easily converted to a single family home. \$55,900.00.



LAKF AREA \$58,900.00

Excellent value for this modern 3 bedroom backsplit. Extra large kitchen, recreation room with Franklin fireplace. Bright living room. Above ground pool, patio, fully fenced and attached garage.



50 ACRE FARM

Your imagination cannot perceive elegance and excitement of this much talked about farm. Gently rolling parcel with many fields, your private pond, grand maple trees arching the driveway. The contemporary home is two storeys with all the modern conveniences. 3 bedrooms and fireplace in living room. The garage could avail itself to three cars and there are two finished rooms above plus a workshop. The steel pole barn is 60'x40' with 5 boxed stalls and silo. Extra garage with car pit and small cabin. Train your horse here. \$165,000.000.



MODERN

3 bedroom sidesplit with ground floor family room, large kitchen and living room. Discriminately decorated. Attached Garage \$62,500.00.



GEORGETOWN \$57,500.00

Two homes for the price of one. Each half has 3 bedrooms, living room and diningrooms, large kitchen and bathroom. Your mortgage payment could be less than rent.

\$39,900.00

3 bedroom, 2 storey condominium Townhouse. Featuring recreation room with walkout; completely redecorated and privately situated.

ERIN 1/2 ACRE

Good starter home. This bungalow has a one bedroom apartment and a two bedroom apartment in excellent condition. Can be converted to one home if desired. \$48,900.00.

NEW HOME

3 bedroom backsplit, finished family room with fireplace and attached garage. Buy now and order your color of broadloom or hardwood flooring and choice of decorating. Built by one of Halton Hills most reliable builders of fine homes \$65,900.

PRIVATE PARK

Elegant display of varied landscaping. Mixed forest, gently rolling fenced fields, ponds hidden away to let you enjoy this fantasy in your own privacy. This 3 bedroom home built from brick and cedar must be seen. Fifty-five foot deck with many walkouts, 2 fireplaces, recreation room with bar, 3 washrooms, sunken bath tub, winding staircase, study and many more rooms. 22'x32' barn with loft, four box stalls and automatic water, double car garage, all this stationed on 10 acres. \$145,000.00.

WE HAVE MANY MORE LISTINGS.
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROPERTIES IN THIS AREA CALL US TODAY!