Type Pest: **piercing/UCKING insect** (*Phylloxera devastatrix*)
Type Metamorphous: **simple** (egg, nymph, adult stages)
Other Common Names: Pecan Phylloxera
Period of Primary Occurrence: April – June
Plants Affected: Pecan and grape

### Identifying Characteristics of Insect Pest
- Round galls ¼ – 1” diameter on pecan twigs and leaves
- Galls split open in late May to early June releasing small greenish, winged aphid-like insects
- Galls then dry, which cause twig dieback and leaf drop
- Tree appearance and tree vigor reduced
- Severe infestations of pecan phylloxera can cause loss of pecan crop for the current and following year

### Description / Symptoms
- Dot-sized insects called pecan phylloxera
- Young phylloxera are soft bodied insects resembling tiny orange aphids and appear in spring when buds unfold
- They inject a toxin into new growth that forms a gall around the insect
- There are two species:
  - pecan leaf phylloxera (galls only occur on leaves)
  - pecan phylloxera, the most damaging because it attacks shoots and nuts

### Best Management Practices (BMP)
**NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL**
- Plant native trees and improved varieties less susceptible to phylloxera
- Unless tree is stressed for other reasons, they usually recover
- Once galls are present, no effective control of Phylloxera is available
Spraying after the galls split open will kill some of the insects, but is not effective because of the extended time over which galls release insects

Most effective control is in spring when eggs hatch and insects crawl to buds (early April), but before nymphs are protected inside gall

**CHEMICAL CONTROL**

- Carbaryl (Sevin XLR 4F, or other formulations of Sevin) are available for home use
- Dormant oil spray applied to tree trunks and limbs in dormant season is also effective, thorough coverage is essential to ensure that the eggs are killed

**Resources**

Texas AgriLife Extension Services

Pecan+Phylloxera.htm


http://entoplp.okstate.edu/ddd/insects/phylloxera.htm