

**OAK GALL WASPS**  
*Family Cynipidae*

- Natural range -** Oak galls can be found wherever oaks occur; in Asia, Europe, North, Central and South America. Over 200 species of oak gall wasps are known to occur in western North America.
- Species affected -** Virtually all oaks can be affected
- Type of damage -** Galls most often appear on leaves and twigs. Some occur on flowers, acorns and roots.
- Symptoms -** Appearance of swellings on leaves, twigs and branches
- Importance -** Damage done by gall wasps is mostly cosmetic in nature. Some can be pests of ornamental trees because of unsightly damage and occasional branch dieback.
- Remarks -** Each species makes its own distinct gall and the species of insect involved can often be identified from the type of gall it makes. In southern Europe, several species of oak galls were once important sources of tannic and gallic acids used in the manufacture of ink.



Oak galls on foliage of burr oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*