Forestry Commission
England

Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp – *Dryocosmus kuriphilus*

The Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp (OCGW) - *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* is a native of China which was discovered for the first time in Britain, in South-East England, in 2015. It has been widespread in Continental Europe for some time.

Its larvae cause galls, or bulbous growths, to form on the leaves of sweet chestnut trees (*Castanea sativa*). The galls can reduce the plant's ability to photosynthesise, which can result in reduced growth and fruiting. OCGW is the only insect known to form galls on sweet chestnut, so the presence of galls is a reliable indicator of the pest's presence.

OCGW is thelytokous parthenogenetic – meaning that females lay unfertilised eggs which give rise to only female offspring.

(Photo: Gyorgy Csoka, Hungary Forest Research Institute, Bugwood.org)

KEEP IT CLEAN

Don't give pests and diseases an easy ride

OCGW is a notifiable pest, so anyone spotting a new case must report it, preferably using the Forestry Commission's Tree Alert online form. **forestry.gov.uk/treealert**

Think kit

When working in or near to a site with OCGW, be sure to thoroughly remove all soil and brash material – leaves and twigs – from your machinery, vehicles and equipment before leaving the site.

Think transport

Any sweet chestnut timber being moved from infested sites or sites close to infested areas must be cleaned entirely free of branch, twig, leaf and soil material before being transported.

Think trees

Sweet chestnut plants being brought into the UK from EU Member States must be accompanied by a plant passport certifying that they have come from an OCGW-free area. In addition, the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) must be notified of all sweet chestnut imports before arrival to enable inspection.

Symptoms Guide: **Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp**

Infested branch

OCGW galls can easily be seen on new stem growth and on the leaves of low branches.

Galls on midrib or petiole

The galls can be found either in the midrib of the leaf or on the petiole (stalk).

Galls deform leaves

The galls cause the leaf to become deformed. The galls are usually between 5mm and 20mm long. Young galls start off green or rose pink. Later they turn red and then woody brown.

New and old galls

Galls which develop on stems or petioles shrink and become woody if they are retained on the tree. They will often remain on the tree for two or more years.

Gall wasp

The adult wasp is typically about 2.5mm long with a black body, translucent wings and orange legs. Its small size means that it is unlikely to be seen by most people.

Kink in leaf

Some sweet chestnut leaves display small kinks which slightly distort them. These can be caused by OCGW galls, but not always, as in this case.

For more details, please visit **www.forestry.gov.uk/gallwasp**