

BOXELDER APHID—*Periphyllus negundinis*

HOST: Boxelder

IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE: Boxelder aphids are light to dark olive-green, and 2 to 2.5 mm long. Wings, if present, are held above the body.

Boxelder aphids overwinter as eggs on the host plant. Nymphs hatch in spring and develop into wingless adult females that reproduce without mating and give birth to living young. Several wingless generations are produced during the summer. The final generation in the fall develops into winged male and female adults which migrate to new host plants, mate, and produce eggs.

These sap-feeding aphids cluster under leaves and along stems, and often secrete a sticky sugary substance (honeydew) that covers leaves, branches, and objects below the tree. Molds grow on this substance giving it a sooty appearance. Feeding discolors leaves, may cause premature leaf drop, and can decrease tree vigor. Damaged leaves are yellowish with brown stippling.

Although damage usually is not severe, young trees in plantations or in ornamental plantings may be severely damaged.

CONTROL: Spray foliage on high value trees with malathion, acephate, or chlorpyrifos when aphid colonies first appear. Parasites and predators of the aphids, which frequently control outbreaks and maintain low populations, are also killed by these insecticides.



Boxelder aphids