RED GUM LERP PSYLLID

(Glycaspis brimblecombei)


DESCRIPTION
The red gum lerp psyllid (RGLP) (Glycaspis brimblecombei) is a foliar pest on red gum eucalyptus trees (Eucalyptus camaldulensis). Like Eucalyptus trees, the RGLP is native to Australia. RGLP is a plant-juice sucking homopteran in the family Psyllidae. The nymphs form a protective covering of crystallized honeydew called a lerp, which protects the insects from both predators and insecticidal foliar sprays. Excess honeydew results in the growth of sooty mold. The RGLP is responsible for extensive defoliation of Red Gum Eucalyptus trees. Heavy infestations result in reduced tree health, decline and ultimately, tree loss.

SYMPTOMS
Trees infested by Red Gum Lerp Psyllid have leaves covered in “lerps,” blackened by sooty mold and drop leaves. Honeydew from eucalyptus trees may also be an indication of RGLP infestation.

TREATMENT
Arborjet recommends a trunk injection using IMA-jet (imidacloprid), a systemic insecticide for the control of RGLP. Imidacloprid is a nicotinoid, a synthetic chemistry structurally similar to nicotine sulfate found in tobacco, which disrupts the central nervous system in insects. Applications may be made using the Arborjet TREE I.V. or the QUIK-jet micro-injector.

PHOTOS
A: A eucalyptus leaf infested with RGLP.
B: An adult RGLP.

Photo A taken by: William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, Bugwood.org
Photo B taken by: Jack Kelly Clark, University of California Statewide IPM Program
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WHEN TO TREAT
Generally, the best seasons for injection are fall and spring, as uptake occurs when trees are transpiring. The environmental conditions that favor uptake are adequate soil moisture and relatively high humidity. Soil temperature should be above 40°F for trunk injection. Hot weather or dry soil conditions will result in a reduced rate of uptake, so trees should be watered if applications are made when soil is extremely dry. If treating trees in the summer, inject in the morning for the quickest uptake. Tree health will affect treatment efficacy, so assess tree health prior to treating. For example, a declining tree (>50% canopy dieback) is a poor candidate for treatment.

In Eucalyptus trees, treat when RGLP is first observed in trees for best results.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER TREATMENT
IMA-jet is an effective treatment option for RGLP infestation. Trees will re-foliate, proportional to the level of infestation at the time of treatment. Best outcomes are seen when applications are made early to trees. Trees that have been repeatedly defoliated by RGLP without treatment will have a poorer prognosis for recovery.

For treatment of red gum lerp psyllid use IMA-jet.

IMA-jet is a broad spectrum insect control with long residual activity for micro-injection and micro-infusion applications. IMA-jet is used in the management of specific insect pests of trees and landscape ornamentals.

IMA-jet may provide multi-season control against a wide range of piercing, sucking and boring insects. Imidacloprid has low toxicity to mammals and is therefore safer for the applicator than other insect control products.

Our products can be purchased online at www.arborjet.com or at your local Arborjet distributor.

ARBORJET DELIVERY SYSTEMS

Arborjet’s delivery systems are designed to be fast, affordable and effective. Contact us today to determine the right system for your needs. To find a distributor near you, go to www.arborjet.com.

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