

A Bug's Life

Woolly aphids

Family: Aphididae; Subfamily: Eriosomatinae

Fun facts

- Mistaken for cotton or wool particles floating around, called "fluff bugs"
- Plant sucking bug that vectors powdery mildew and other disease

Host plants

- **Variety of trees** like apple, pears, hawthorn, ash, alders, elms and oaks

Identification

Damage: Large cotton masses on plant, galls or abnormal growths on trees, twisted/curled leaves, yellow foliage, branch dieback, secrete honeydew, sooty mold

Nymph: Long white waxy filaments on twigs

Adult: fluffy wax with wings

Management

- Prune out infested branches
- Strong blast of water from hose to knock off tree to knock down bugs
- Spot treat with insecticidal soap or neem oil
- Increase vigor of tree
- No permanent damage is tree is usually done by aphid to harm tree



Photos: J. Green