

OSU MG Study Group Diagnostic Show-and-Tell Highlights: May 7, 2018

Prepared and photographed (except where noted) by Elizabeth Price

Join our friendly OSU MG Study Group on the first Monday of each month from 1 to 3 pm for Diagnostic Show-and-Tell. Have fun while learning! We explore bugs, diseases and more. Below are a few samples of what MGs brought to our last session.

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Mossy rose gall & rose gall wasp (*Diplolepis rosae*)

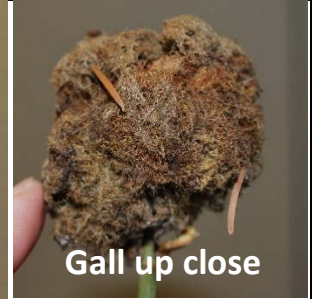
Margaret brought in this curious structure known as the mossy rose gall. Plant galls occur on leaves, flowers, roots and stems, like the one that formed on this rose stem. Insects are the cause of most galls. In this case, female wasps lay eggs in the leaf buds—larvae feed right where they hatch. The feeding induces plant cells to grow abnormally into the gall. As the gall develops, it grows around the larvae, housing each in a tiny protective chamber, where the larvae pupate and overwinter. (The galls look more mossy when they first form and are a brighter greenish-pink.) Adult wasps emerge in the spring. The small size (1/5"), amber-colored abdomen, black thorax and black head identify it as the rose gall wasp.

Though galls may look alarming, plants typically tolerate them well. Just prune them out when they are still green, before the wasps emerge in spring.

For more information: [PNW Insect Management Handbook](#)



Rose stem with gall



Gall up close



Mossy rose gall wasp 1/5"

May-apple 'Spotty Dotty' (*Podophyllum* sp.)

Elaine brought in a plant with spectacular leaves that left us all with plant envy. Each stem of 'Spotty Dotty' supports one or two large, splotchy, parasol-like leaves. You must peek underneath to see the dangling maroon flowers, which form fruit that resembles apples. This cultivar of the Asian May-apple can be pricey; so be sure to place it properly: partial to full shade in rich, moist, well-drained soil.



Dangling flowers



Large parasol like leaves

For more information: [Missouri Botanical Garden](#)

May-apple 'Spotty Dotty'

Maple aphids (*Periphyllus* sp.)

Judy brought in vine maple leaves that were host to maple aphids in various nymph stages, as well as host to a winged adult, which most of us had only seen in pictures. Maple aphids overwinter as eggs in the leaf buds and in the spring are found feeding at the growing tips with their piercing straw-like mouthparts that they use to suck phloem from the leaves. Phloem is mostly sucrose, which is why their excrement—called honeydew—is so sticky and a food source to certain species of ants. Some ants actually bite off the aphid wings to keep them close by.

The best controls are to knock the aphids from the plant with a strong spray of water or to remove them by hand. Chemical intervention is not usually warranted. We also observed a natural control at work. Judy noticed a strange looking bloated aphid that Margaret called out as one that had been parasitized by a wasp. The female wasp pierces the abdomen of the aphid and deposits one egg; the larva hatches and feeds on the aphid from the inside, where it also pupates. The adult wasp emerges and chews its way out of the mummified aphid.

So, next time you see aphids on a plant, look for ants and small wasps!

For more information: [OSU PNW Nursery IPM](#) [LSU AgCenter: Aphid Parasitoids](#)



Mummy aphid parasitized by a wasp

Inside lies an egg that will hatch into a larva & feed on the aphid from the inside.



Winged adult (top) & various aged nymphs (bottom)

(Highly magnified)