OSU MG Study Group Diagnostic Show-and-Tell Highlights: June 3, 2019

Prepared and photographed 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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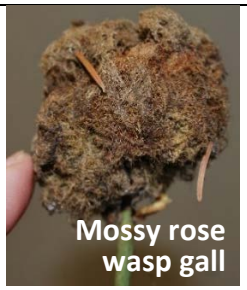
Plant galls are tumerous growths occuring in a mind-boggling array of shapes, sizes, textures and colors. Found on leaves, flowers, fruit and stems, they are a plant's response to invasion of cell tissue by insects, fungi or bacteria. Many galls, fleshy and colorful when forming, dry out and brown with age. Many are also tolerated well by plants, allowing us to enjoy their bizarre beauty without any need to take action. In our last session, two MGs brought in plant galls. Just below are some others that have come through Study Group over the years. The first three were old abandoned galls; the kinnikinnick galls were fresh and actively harboring aphids.

Marge: December 2018

Elizabeth: May 2016



Margaret: May 2018

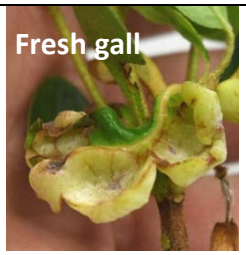
Ginny: August 2017

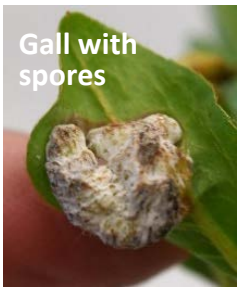
Azalea leaf fungus gall (*Exobasidium vaccinii*)

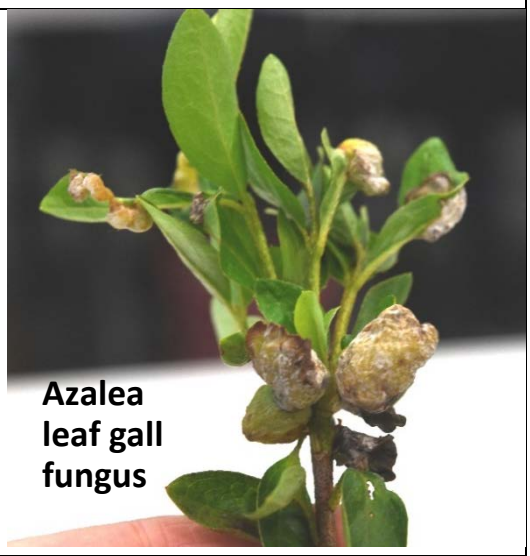
Margaret brought in azalea leaves with galls that looked a whole lot like cauliflower ear. These galls are caused by a fungus that is an intermittent pest in Margaret's yard, with some years like this one seeing widespread infection and other years none at all, which is typical for this disease, as it requires wet humid conditions at bud break to flourish.

Fungal mycelium penetrates the plant cells of emerging leaves, stimulating rapid cell division. Soft, light green, veiny looking galls age into powdery white sporulating masses, which then shrink, brown and harden. Azaleas tolerate the galls well but prune them away if you want to control the disease.

For more information: PNW Disease Handbook



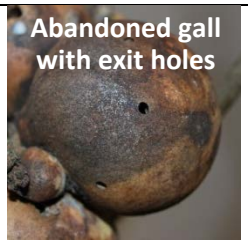




Oak stem apple wasp gall (*Andricus californicus*)

Elizabeth's stem gall from a white Oregon oak (*Quercus garryana*) bore a striking resemblence to a green apple in both appearance and texture. When cut open, the gall was surprisingly wet, releasing a stream of fluid when squeezed, and also unexpectedly foul, smelling just like unlaundered gym socks.

The galls form around wasp larvae in response to their feeding. The succulent, sheltering gall serves as both foodsource and protection from predators. Larvae pupate and overwinter in the gall; small adult wasps emerge and tunnel their way out in the spring, leaving circular exit holes. Again, oak trees tolerate these galls well; so, no action is necessary. **For more information**: OR Dept. of Forestry: Oak Galls



Succulent fresh gall

Gall cut open