

**I've got bugs on my trees, what should I do?**

Gilbert A. Smith,  
Master Arborist

**July 2014  
Wisdom**

Oak galls, nipple galls, ants, grubs, petiole gall, canker worm, fairy ring, root rot, fire blight, you've got them all! Taking a gentle turn around your garden turns into a fit of fear that your yard is infested with diseases, weeds and bugs. A bag turns up at your door with something crawling inside and the alarming warning, "Look what I found on



Maple Leaf Nipple Gall



Hackberry Nipple Gall  
you almost never see Hackberry trees without these

your trees!" Reading your favorite gardening magazine you have probably been warned about some coming scourge on tomatoes or infestation in your raspberries. If you are a normally sensitive home owner you are probably wondering if the world will ever survive this onslaught of bugs.

This month I'm writing to calm your nerves. Every year in July we are bombarded with questions about holes in leaves or unusual colors on leaves or tree trunks. Here's the good news, for the most part they are normal, natural and healthy.

I need to really emphasize this! Insects, fungus, bacteria, virus, and weeds are all a healthy part of nature. To find them in your yard is a good sign, not a bad one. If you look into your landscape and you don't find any of these natural organisms, then you are really in trouble.

I'm telling you this because I suffer from the same malady of seeing only the weeds and bugs and missing the beauty all around me. Lesley and I, two certified arborists can hardly enjoy a romantic evening at Ravinia without mentally trimming the trees. However, I want you to enjoy your trees this summer and not fret over them. Certainly there are many problems that deserve our attention, but the ones that we most often get calls about ain't them. *And* beware of advertisements or solicitations trying to sell you a pesticide that will cure all your problems. **Those are the really bad bugs!**

I don't want you to stop calling us when you see something unusual. We know what to look for that really needs attention. That's why we're here, to help connect you to nature and so that when you stroll through your landscape you know that it's being taken care of. All you have to do is enjoy this wonderful gift.

