



# Biosecurity alert: Citrus gall wasp

*(Bruchophagus fellis)*

## The pest and its impacts

Citrus gall wasp (*Bruchophagus fellis*) is an Australian native insect from northern NSW and Queensland. Its natural host is the Australian finger lime (*Citrus australasica*) but it readily infests most citrus varieties. It's an established pest in the Perth metropolitan region.

Citrus gall wasp affects all citrus species, particularly lemons and grapefruit, and will be an ongoing pest to manage for Perth gardeners, like other common pests such as Mediterranean fruit fly, aphids and scales. It has not been found in commercial citrus orchards in Western Australia yet.

**Only report observations outside the Perth metropolitan area.**



## LOOK for this pest

- New-season galls (pictured above) start to become visible in February.
- Search for forming galls in the lower to middle canopy of trees on young, green twigs.
- Inspect all nursery stock and new plants for galls before purchasing and after planting for at least 12 months.
- Check new trees before purchasing or moving and re-check in June.

- The spring-summer period can be a particularly risky time for spreading the pest unknowingly as the galls on an infested tree may not be visible.
- Galls on older branches can indicate older infestations (previous year or earlier).
- If there are small holes on the gall, then adults have already emerged.

### How you can help: look, act, report

While citrus gall wasp can be difficult to control, there are things that can be done to minimise the damage and prevent spread of this pest to new regions and commercial orchards.

See the citrus gall wasp webpage for more useful information on control measures. Remember to only report observations if you're outside the Perth metropolitan area.



*Citrus gall wasp*



*Citrus gall wasp exit holes*



### REPORT suspected sightings outside Perth metropolitan area

- Only report observations of Citrus gall wasp outside of the Perth metropolitan area.
- Early detection outside the Perth metropolitan area will help protect WA's horticulture and nursery industries.

#### Important disclaimer

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