

# Cottony Ash Psyllid in Saskatoon

Cottony ash psyllid is a non-native 2.95-3.57 mm light green to yellow-green pest that was first identified in Saskatoon in 2006 on black and mancana ash. This insect is native to central Europe but has made several appearances in North America including recent infestations in North Dakota, Minnesota and Alberta.

To date there is limited information on the biology of the cottony ash psyllid. Stressed trees, especially those found in concrete cut-outs in Saskatoon's downtown area and central business improvement districts have been particularly susceptible.

## Signs of Cottony Ash Psyllid

Because of their size, the presence of cottony psyllids are most easily recognized by the damage they create.

- Browning, yellowing and curling around the margins of the leaflets is a sign of a first generation psyllid population.
- White cotton curled within the leaflet margins and rolled under and towards the midrib.
- White cotton along the midrib of an uncurled leaf is a sign of second generation psyllids.
- Heavily infested trees will often be partially defoliated with the remaining leaves twisted into a corkscrew or cauliflower shape.

## Controlling Cottony Ash Psyllid

Psyllids are difficult to control and like many tree pests, the best approach is to ensure your tree is kept in good health. Supplementing natural rainfall with additional watering during droughts, protecting trees from root or trunk damage, and avoiding the use of herbicides or excessive salts in the soils near trees helps to keep trees healthy.

