

## Lace Bug

(*Corythucha* spp.)

### Plant(s) Affected

- Azaleas
- Sycamores
- Oaks
- Cotoneaster

### Symptoms & Damage

- Leaves develop stippling or a bleached appearance due to sap feeding.
- Black tar-like spots (excrement) may be visible on the underside of the leaves.
- Symptoms typically appear during late spring through fall.



### Cause

- Lace bug (*Corythucha* spp.)
- Lace bugs feed on plant sap by piercing the underside of leaves.
- Spread is often facilitated by wind, infested plants, or poor plant health.

### Prevention & Cultural Controls

- Maintain plant health with proper watering, fertilizing, and pruning to reduce stress.
- Encourage natural predators such as lady beetles and lacewing larvae.
- Remove infested leaves or plants if the issue is severe.
- Avoid planting susceptible species in areas prone to infestation.



### Treatment Options

- **Organic Solutions**
  - Use horticultural oils or insecticidal soaps to suffocate lace bugs.
  - Introduce beneficial insects like lady beetles or lacewing larvae.
- **Chemical Treatments**
  - Apply a systemic insecticide or a foliar spray labeled for lace bugs.
  - Follow label instructions carefully and apply during early morning or late evening to minimize harm to beneficial insects.
- **Best Time to Treat**
  - Early spring to target nymphs before they mature.



### Additional Notes

- Lace bugs are more common in sunny, dry environments.
- Despite their damage, heavy infestations are usually not fatal to healthy plants.