

The **cottony psyllid** is a recently introduced insect to the Bismarck area, being first discovered here in 2005. Currently an outbreak of this insect on drought-stressed black ash trees is very noticeable. Natural control of this insect may be largely lacking at this time.

Cottony psyllids belong to the family sometimes called "jumping plantlice."

These cottony psyllids attack **Black (Fall Gold), Manchurian (Mancana), Northern Treasure, and Northern Gem ash, but not green ash.** These insects overwinter as eggs attached to outer branches. In spring the young psyllids, which resemble aphids, hatch from the eggs and suck sap from the leaflets. This feeding causes ash leaflets to become shriveled and discoloured as shown in the adjacent photograph. The leaflets curl under from the sides to enclose the psyllids and a white, cottony material they produce.

Trees that are well watered appear to suffer less damage from cottony psyllid. Insecticidal soap is a less toxic product registered for the control of psyllids. The City of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada Pest Management staff found little effect of horticultural oil or dormant oil against overwintering psyllid eggs.



Damage of ash leaflets caused by cottony psyllid



Adult cottony psyllid insect.

**Control** (In order of the safest to most dangerous for the environment)

1. **Insecticidal Soap** – Safest
2. **Imadocloprid**  
**Systemic** – lasts all year in leaf  
**Most effective and will not harm beneficial insects.**
  - **HOMEOWNERS-Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub Insecticide** (available locally in garden shops, hardware stores and home centers)
  - **COMMERCIAL-Injection of Pointer Insecticide** – or systemic application of **Merit** by any commercial applicator (Other Pesticides registered for use on Psyllids available in local garden shops, hardware store and home center.)
3. **Acephate – Orthene** – systemic – spray on tree and absorbed into leaf
4. **Permethrin** – spray on tree
5. **Sevin** – spray on tree

**Make sure to water your trees 1" a week.**