

**Species:** Bruchophagus fellis  
**Common name:** Citrus Gall Wasp  
**Order:** Hymenoptera  
**Sub-family:** Chalcidiodea  
**Family:** Eurytomidae  
**Genus:** Bruchophagus



The Citrus Gall Wasp is an Australian native insect from northern NSW and Queensland that has now established as far as Western Australia. It is a little shiny black wasp about 2-3mm long. Citrus gall wasps affect most citrus especially lemons and oranges

The insect has a limited flying range which means new infestations occur from infested trees in close proximity and or the lack of monitoring of galls development on branches.



Citrus galls are unsightly swellings caused by the female insect which lays her eggs in the soft growth of citrus trees in spring. As the wood hardens off, a woody gall forms around the growing wasp larvae. Each gall contains many larvae each in its own individual cell.

## PREVENTION

- Don't prune heavily in winter and do not over fertilize in the spring as this encourages soft new growth into which wasps can lay eggs.
- Don't apply fertilisers high in nitrogen in winter or spring for the same reason. Try spraying the tree with horticultural oil in spring to disrupt wasps laying eggs.
- The wasps favour the lower canopy of citrus trees possibly because of increased humidity and shading so use drip irrigation as sprinklers create a more humid environment under the trees canopy.

- Use insect traps to capture the adult wasps thus breaking the breeding cycle. Traps can be hung under trees.

## TREATMENT

- Prune off galls well below them to ensure that all larvae is removed before the wasps emerge anytime from mid-September until mid-December.

Do not place cuttings into the compost or into green waste bins as this will only spread the pest. Burn or soak under water or cook in the sun in a sealed plastic bag.