

ERYTHRINA GALL WASP



WHAT IS THE THREAT:

The Erythrina Gall Wasp (*Quadrastichus erythrinae*) also known as EGW, is an exotic pest of *Erythrina* sp. that was first discovered on the island of Oahu in Hawaii in 2005. The Erythrina Gall Wasp is extremely destructive and can kill trees in as little as two years. Females oviposit their eggs into both stem and leaf tissue, in a lifecycle that takes only 21 days to complete. Gall formation creates a nutrient sink and forces tree hosts to reallocate resources to specific shoots, leading to leaf out failure and tree mortality.

WHERE IS THE THREAT:

Since its initial introduction on Oahu in 2005, the EGW has spread to multiple islands throughout the state of Hawaii. Additional infestations were documented in Florida in 2006. The EGW feeds on Coral trees and shrubs (*Erythrina* sp.), specifically the Wiliwili tree and the Indian coral tree. *Erythrina* sp. can also be found in California, making the state vulnerable to future infestations.

SYMPTOMS:

As larvae feed on the plant, the plant responds by creating galls or swelling in the leaf and stem tissue. As adult wasps emerge from galls, they create tiny emergence holes that can be seen with the naked eye. Canopy damage includes, leaf out failure, flagging, limb loss, complete defoliation and tree mortality.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT:

Research studies conducted independently by the University of Hawaii and the USFS found that IMA-jet (imidacloprid) effectively controlled the EGW in ornamental landscape trees. We recommend being proactive with treatment if EGW infestations have been documented in your area. IMA-jet should be reapplied every year for maximum control.



Pupae inside the gall



Severe erythrina gall wasp damage



Damage

Photo Credit: Header Image-Enlarged adult female erythrina gall wasp: M. Tremblay, Pupae: M. Tremblay, Severe Damage: : Albert (Bud) Mayfield, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bugwood.org Damage: Dennis Haugen, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org