

# RED GUM LERP PSYLLID



## WHAT IS THE THREAT:

The Red Gum Lerp Psyllid (*Glycaspis brimblecombe*), also known as RGLP, is a foliar pest primarily on Red Gum Eucalyptus trees that was first introduced to California from Australia in 1998. The nymphs form a protective covering of crystallized honeydew called a lerp, which protects the insects from both predators and insecticidal foliar sprays. Excess honey dew results in the growth of sooty mold. The RGLP is responsible for extensive defoliation of Red Gum Eucalyptus trees. Heavy infestations result in reduced tree health, decline and ultimately, tree loss.

## WHERE IS THE THREAT:

Since its initial documentation, RGLP has spread throughout California and has been identified in multiple states in the US, including Florida and Hawaii, as well as Mexico. The RGLP feeds on various species of Eucalyptus, with a preference of red gum.

## SYMPTOMS:

Trees infested by Red Gum Lerp Psyllid have leaves covered in "lerps." Many leaves will be dark in color, due to sooty mold. Honeydew and organisms associated with its presence (i.e. Ants) may also be an indication of RGLP infestation. Adults are light green in color and immature nymphs are orange.

## WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT:

Arborjet recommends trunk injection of IMA-jet® (imidacloprid) for the control of RGLP. In Eucalyptus trees, treat when RGLP is first observed in neighboring trees for best results. Generally, the best seasons for injection are fall and spring, as uptake occurs when trees are transpiring.



Infested eucalyptus leaf



Multiple life stages