



# Time For Another Oak Gall Reminder

In several past issues of this letter I have written about the prevalence of gouty oak gall in many of our large oaks in the Mid-South. I have tried to focus on both the unsightly aspect of this phenomenon as well as the negative impact that a significant presence has on tree function and its natural resistance to other problems. Aside from environmental issues with large oaks this parasitically-induced tissue tumor is probably the single most common detractor that I see.

So this fall letter is perfectly timed to remind you again that a soil drench treatment of Merit has been shown to be effective in retarding and diminishing this oak gall problem. January is the month that we schedule this application. This provides time for the material to reach the twig tissue before warming temperatures bring on the wasp's egg insertions into the new tender twig tissue. Heavy infestations of old gall may take several years of annual treatment before the existing formations enlarge and fall away, allowing the tree to clean itself up.



Imidacloprid (Merit) is the product of choice because it is a broad spectrum systemic with good longevity in the tissue. Therefore it also provides additional protection against other insect issues that may appear later. Please call our office if you would like to know more about eliminating oak gall in your trees or simply to add your name to our application list. January is the time to do it; don't miss it!

# Did You Know . . .

. . . That guy wires installed on new tree transplants for temporary supports should allow for a moderate amount of motion in the tree. Some movement encourages stem strength development just as exercise encourages muscle tone.

. . . That tree guy wires should be inspected regularly to prevent abrasion and can generally be removed entirely after six (6) months to one year. The continuing need for artificial support after this period is a sign of more serious trouble in the soil or with the tree itself.

Decorative graphic with stylized leaves and a green box containing the text: **We're on the Web!**  
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