

Plants have a lot of GALL!

Gall- an abnormal growth of plant tissue produced by a stimulus external to the plant, such as insects, fungi or mites.

There are thousands of types of galls. In 1881, it was discovered that insect-induced galls are triggered by chemical substances secreted by insects. In some cases the egg-laying female injects the substance with the egg. This initiates gall formation, but if the insect does not survive, gall formation halts.

In other cases, larvae hatch from eggs on the plant surface, then bore into the plant inducing gall growth. Apparently these larvae are able to secrete the chemical which stimulates abnormal plant growth.

Here are some common galls with the type of insect that induce them:

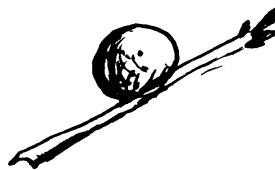
Pine Cone Willow Gall

Found on the tips of willow branches, resembling gray pine cones. Formed by gall midge.



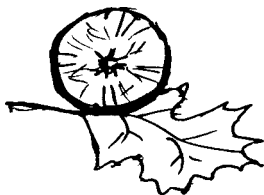
Oak Bullet Gall

Small, hard spheres, fibrous inside on oak twigs, single or in groups. Formed by gall wasp.



Oak Apple Gall

Round spheres, fibrous inside on oak twigs, leaves or buds. Formed by gall wasp.



Cherry Leaf Gall

Small tube-like green or red growths on leaf surface. Formed by gall mite.



Goldenrod Ball Gall

Round swelling in stem. Formed by gall fly.



Elliptical Goldenrod Gall

More slender, oval-shaped swelling on stem. Formed by gall moth.



Goldenrod Bunch Gall

Tight grouping of deformed leaves at tip of plant. Formed by gall midge.



For more information,
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