

# WOOLLY ELM APHID—*Eriosoma americanum*; WOOLLY APPLE APHID—*E. lanigerum*

**HOSTS:** Elm, apple, and a few other hardwoods.

**IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE:** Woolly elm aphids are green to dusky gray; woolly apple aphids are yellowish to rusty brown. Mature aphids are 1.5 to 2.0 mm in length.

Woolly elm aphids overwinter as eggs that are laid in bark crevices in late fall. In spring, wingless females hatch from the eggs and migrate to newly expanding leaves, where they feed and give birth to live aphids. Up to 200 winged and wingless aphids may be produced by one female. The winged offspring migrate to new leaves, while the wingless offspring feed on the same leaf.

Feeding by nymph and adult aphids causes young elm leaves to swell, fold, and curl around the aphid colonies. Large populations are unsightly, adversely affect photosynthesis, and decrease tree vigor.

**CONTROL:** Spray acephate, diazinon, chlorpyrifos, or malathion on the expanding leaves of high value trees in the spring. Infested branches can be mechanically pruned from trees and destroyed. These insects are difficult to control, and most attempts are ineffective.



Woolly elm aphid damage



Woolly apple aphids