

Test Your Knowledge



Photo courtesy: David Blevins, Nature Photographer

A.

I am a fairly common species of hardwood tree that likes to grow in bottomlands near water. My nuts are a staple for squirrels and deer and my smooth gray bark resembles an elephant's hide and even Daniel Boone couldn't resist carving his initials on me. What am I?



Photo is from Eric G. Vallery, USDA Forest Service, SRS-4552, Bugwood.org

B.

I caused a lot of problems for pine trees in Kentucky back in 2000 and 2001 and I'm due to make my way back north around the year 2011. I am only 1/8th inch in size and I'm hard to see because I only feed on the inside of the pine. I may be small, but I am many and we are mighty. What am I?

Answers to Test Your Knowledge can be found on page 24.



C.

I am seen on many types of red oak species, more noticeably pin oak and I am commonly recognized as a black, woody glob growing on the twigs of the tree. I am caused by a tiny wasp that lays eggs on the twigs which causes them to swell. I can get over two inches in size and can become pretty heavy for the twig I am growing on, often causing it to break. I don't usually kill the tree, but I sure make it ugly. What am I?

Photo courtesy: Minnesota Department for Natural Resources, ForestPest.org



Photo courtesy: Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

D.

I look like an overgrown hat rack. Whether I was "trimmed" because of a utility line clearance or they just wanted to make me look smaller and be shaped like a lollipop, I do not know. However, I do know that I will make every effort to replace what was removed, but since I wasn't "trimmed" correctly, the new flush of growth I will put out will be weakly attached. You will be not only be raking my leaves this fall, but you will also be picking up my new "branches" from your yard every time the wind blows hard. What has happened to me?



Photo courtesy: Eric Day, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Bugwood.org

E.

I am a common inhabitant of Kentucky. I'm most noticeable in late summer, early fall; however, I do most of my damage in the spring. I prefer to feed on the needles of arborvitae, pines and cedar. I re-infest the same tree and will eventually kill my host, but I will overwinter in my own self-made bag and I'll be visiting your yard soon. What am I?