

Test Your Knowledge

Photo courtesy: Kentucky Division of Forestry



A.

I am a fast-growing tree that is commonly found throughout the state. My heartwood ranks second only to black walnut and my fruit is relished by many birds. Unfortunately, the eastern tent caterpillar also relishes my leaves every spring causing me to leaf back out every year. Most people recognize me by my burnt potato chip bark – do you?

C.

I am found exclusively on white oak but only in the spring. Located inside my home are my grubby siblings who



secrete a chemical which causes the up to one-inch gall you see. I will eventually develop into a cynipid wasp and carry on in my family's tradition of gall making. By the time you notice my work, it's too late to control me but its okay because I don't cause too much damage anyway. Chances are you've seen me before, but do you know my name?

Photo courtesy: Lisa Ames, University of Georgia, www.forestryimages.org

D.



I have the perfect alibi; my work is often misidentified as insect borer holes on the trunks of trees. But actually, my holes are neatly arranged in a pattern of horizontal, vertical or diagonal rows and are not normally very deep. I use these holes to lure insects and to eat the sap that flows from the openings. I'm a common visitor to pine, maple and several other species and many like to use my name as an insult. Who am I?

Photo courtesy: Purdue University, Plant & Pest Diagnostic Laboratory www.ppd.l.purdue.edu/PPDL/

B.

Photo courtesy: Arnold T. Droot, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org www.forestryimages.org



I am the reason why your black locust tree looks like it is dying every summer. My job is to mine inside the leaves and skeletonize them causing them to turn gray or brown, often suggesting an early fall color change. My work does not usually kill the tree, but it definitely makes it unsightly. Even though I prefer black locust, you will occasionally find me in honeylocust, beech and hawthorn. Do you know me?

E.



Warm, moist springs are ideal for me to attack your fruit trees, especially apples, pears and crabapples. I cause these trees to dieback in their crowns, creating a "shepherd's crook" and giving them the appearance of being burned. My spores are easily spread by insects, rain splash and infected pruning tools – have you figured out what I am?

Photo courtesy: Mark Longstroth, Van Buren County Extension, www.canr.msu.edu/vanburen/fblinks.htm

Answers to Test Your Knowledge can be found on page 25.