



PESTS & DISEASES

# Psyllid

Psyllids are small sap sucking insects that can be hard to see, however the damage they cause is very distinctive. They attack the Syzygium family, commonly known as Lilly Pillies.

The 2-4 mm long females lay their eggs underneath the leaves, the nymphs hatch and attach themselves to the bottom of the leaf where their feeding causes a dimple to form. The dimples protrude to the other side of the leaf forming an unsightly pimple look on top of the leaf. Once the nymphs have matured, they form wings and fly to other plants to lay their eggs.

Small populations don't cause too much harm, they just look unattractive on the plant. If high enough population start to form, they can cause the new growth to stunt and distort. Stressed plants are more susceptible to infestations, keeping Lilly Pilly plants happy can help deter psyllid populations.

## Control Methods

- Try to prevent populations forming by keeping Lilly Pilly plants healthy.
- Prune out heavily affected leaves.
- Spray with a horticultural oil and a systemic insecticide.