

Gall Identification Guide

TheParksTrust
MILTON KEYNES

Galls are growths on plants, that are made of plant tissue but caused by another living thing - usually insects, bacteria, fungi or viruses. Insects are the most common cause, and in the UK, solitary wasps are the most likely to cause galls. In many cases a wasp will lay her egg in a leaf, flower or twig which causes the plant to mutate around it. This helps provide food and/or protects the larva growing inside from cold weather or predators.



Fungus

Alder Tongue

Look for me on: **Alder cones**
Year-round. Green (spring), red (summer), brown (winter)



Oak Apple

Look for me on: **Oak twigs**
May-July



Mite

Lime Nail Gall

Look for me on: **Lime leaves**
Late spring-summer



Robin's Pincushion

Look for me on: **Dog Rose**
Late summer-autumn



Fungus/
Bacteria/
Virus

Witches' Broom

Look for me on: **Silver Birch**
Year-round



Acorn Knopper

Look for me on: **Oak acorns**
Summer/autumn especially



Common Spangle

Look for me on: **Oak leaves**
Autumn

Did you know?

Although galls are technically parasites, most don't harm the host plant at all!

Galls appear on more than half of all plant families.



Wasp

Silk Button

Look for me on: **Oak leaves**
Late summer-autumn



Cherry

Look for me on: **Oak leaves**
July-October



Oak Marble

Look for me on: **Oak twigs**
Autumn

Top tip:

Many gall-causing larvae (babies)

overwinter safe inside their galls so please be careful and leave galls where you find them.

Additional photos: AJ Cann | Craig Mabbett | Graham Calow (NatureSpot) | Southwick Country Park | Libor Kubát | Andrew Halstead | Jonathan (chirpy)