

Plum Bud Gall Mite (PBGM) *Acalitus phloeocoptes*



Photo: Kyle Beucke, California Department of Food and Agriculture

The Plum Bud Gall Mite (*Acalitus phloeocoptes*) is a new pest that has recently been found in Santa Clara County.

Plum Bud Gall Mites (PBGM) has been found on branches and twigs of stone fruit trees such as plum, peach, and apricot, as well as almonds. The mites are tiny (0.15 mm) and difficult to see, but they produce visible galls when feeding on nearby buds on fruit trees. The galls cause damage to buds and fruit spurs, but do not cause significant damage directly to fruit. PBGM infestation can cause weakened trees, which may eventually cause tree fatality, but other trees have been found to recover.

If you think have found PBGM on your fruit tree, please contact the Santa Cruz Agricultural Commissioner's Office at **(831) 763-8080**.