



Government of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Food Production, Land & Marine Affairs

PEST ADVISORY

Avocado Lace Bug, *Pseudacysta perseae* A new pest in Trinidad

What is it?

The avocado lace bug is a tiny, sucking insect with wings that look like lace. This insect is found in the Caribbean and USA and attacks the leaves of avocado, camphor and red bay.

Why is it a problem?

The avocado lace bug sucks the sap from the leaves and causes the formation of small, white to yellow spots. These spots grow larger and turn brown giving the appearance of scorched areas. Heavy infestation causes the leaf to dry, curl, and drop early. Severe leaf drop reduces yield.

What do I look for?

1. Avocado trees with scorched leaves (**Fig. 1**).
2. Avocado trees with heavy leaf fall.



Fig 1

Photo: Krishna Ramnarine

Fig 1. Brown areas make avocado leaves seem scorched.

3. Look at the underside of the leaf for:

- Black pepper-like objects in the brown areas (**Fig. 2**).

- Tiny dark reddish brown to black insects (less than 2 mm) with or without wings like lace (**Fig. 3**).



Fig 2

Photo: Jorge E. Pena, University of Florida



Fig 3

Photo copyright University of Florida

Fig 2. Avocado leaf with black pepper-like objects.

Fig 3. Tiny reddish brown to black insects with and without wings.

**Report all sightings to 646-6284
email us at reportpest@gmail.com**