

Lace bugs are a common insect found on some trees and shrubs right now. They are very small insects, only about a 1/8" long, and have transparent wings that are held flat on their back. These insects feed on the bottom of leaves producing white spots that are visible on the top of leaves. The white spots are the result of the insect's piercing mouth parts which suck the chlorophyll from within the leaf tissue. The lace bug insects overwinter as eggs which are inserted into or cemented to the leaves of plants. They hatch in late spring and cause damage throughout the season. Lace bugs are attracted to and feed on broad-leaved evergreen plants such as azalea, rhododendron, andromeda and hawthorn. Azalea lace bug is the most damaging lace bug associated with landscape plants and is a key pest in our region.

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