

# OLIVE LACE BUG, *Froggattia olivinia*

**Size:** Adults 3 mm

**Biology and damage:** An Australian native species recorded in NSW, Queensland, Victoria SA, WA and most recently Tas. Adults are mottled brown. There are two to four generations per year. Spiny nymphs occur in clusters on undersides of leaves; the first generation commonly emerge from leaves in spring. All stages attack leaves with piercing mouthparts, causing yellow spotting. Black tar spots occur on undersides of leaves. Leaf drop and twig dieback may occur in severe infestations.



**Natural enemies:** Few have been recorded; green lacewings have been observed preying on lace bug nymphs, and spiders on adults and birds may also be predators. The native green lacewing *Mallada signata* is commercially available, and some growers have released it in their groves.

**Management:** If required, lace bug can be targeted by judicious use of insecticides. Several, including pyrethrum and potassium soap may be organically acceptable inputs. Sprays need to be targeted at young nymphal stages, so monitoring for nymphal hatch of especially the first generation in spring is important. Opening up tree canopies exposes nymphs to greater likelihood of dehydration, and also to access by sprays targeted against them. Stressed trees are more susceptible to lace bug attack, so maintaining healthy trees assists in management of this pest.

**Hort  
Innovation**  
Strategic levy investment

**OLIVE  
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For more information on the fund and strategic levy investment visit [horticulture.com.au](http://horticulture.com.au)