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Mystery Leaf Warts

Colette L

North Hampton School

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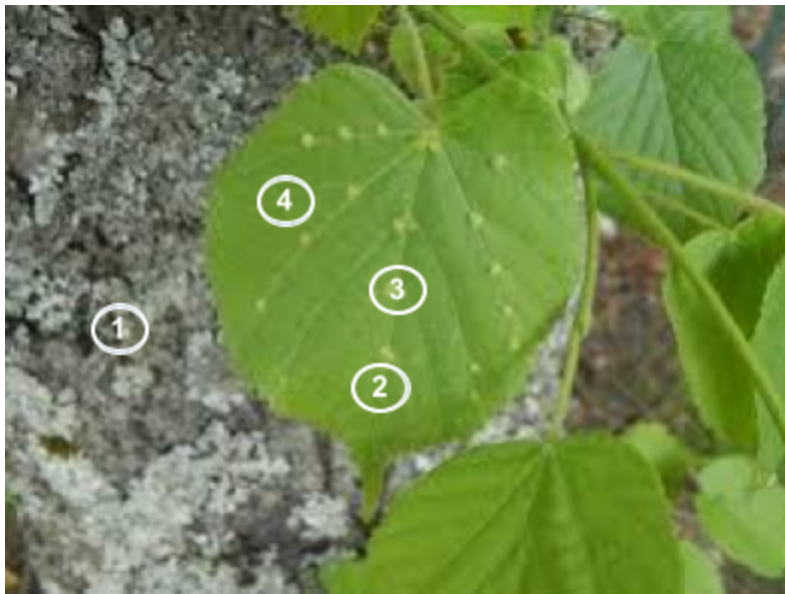
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Mystery leaf warts

Nature Note

At 12:45 on a sunny, chilly day I was at the Pawtuckaway Homestead located in Nottingham, New Hampshire. I had been sitting on the ground next to my fellow classmates when I noticed a bundle of leaves that had bumps all over them. I called them warts. I had wondered what these bumps were and where they came from. Only a few leaves had them, but a few that did, they happened to be next to each other. So that must mean whatever these bumps are, they spread to the other living things around them. I decided to research these interesting growths and I found out they're called leaf galls. For having such a disgusting name they are not as bad for the leaf as you would think. They are most commonly found on oak trees, which is what I happened to find



these leaf galls on. They are made up of bacteria, the residue of feeding insects, fungi, or possibly a virus in the worst cases. But these galls are not usually harmful to the leaf but they are quite ugly and easily spread. So this leads me to wonder, how do you get rid of these galls, and why are they mostly found on oak trees? These questions could lead to an investigation on these interesting growths.

- 1.) **This is the tree the leaf is attached to. There are saplings of the same species of tree around the base of the trunk. These probably grew from acorns that fell from the larger tree they surround.**
- 2.) **This is the stem/veins. This is what runs water through the leaf to keep it healthy and alive. The stem keeps it attached to the tree as well as receiving water from the tree and giving it to the leaf.**
- 3.) **These are the warts. They are made of foreign subsystems and organisms that made home on the leaf.**
- 4.) **This of course is the leaf. This is what the warts are attached to. The leaf is also attached to the tree.**

[mortonarb.org/plant-and-protect/tree-plant-care/plant-care-resources/plant-galls/#:~:te
xt=Galls%20are%20abnormal%20growths%20that,midges%2C%20wasps%2C%20or%
20mites.&text=Each%20type%20of%20gall%2Dproducer,a%20particular%20kind%20of
%20plant.](http://mortonarb.org/plant-and-protect/tree-plant-care/plant-care-resources/plant-galls/#:~:text=Galls%20are%20abnormal%20growths%20that,midges%2C%20wasps%2C%20or%20mites.&text=Each%20type%20of%20gall%2Dproducer,a%20particular%20kind%20of%20plant.)

“Bumps On Leaves - What Does Leaf Gall Look Like And How To Treat It.” *Gardening Know How*,
[gardeningknowhow.com/plant-problems/environmental/treating-leaf-gall-on-plants.ht
m#:~:text=There%20are%20blister%2C%20bud%2C%20nipple,%2C%20twig%2C%20a
nd%20root%20galls.](http://gardeningknowhow.com/plant-problems/environmental/treating-leaf-gall-on-plants.htm#:~:text=There%20are%20blister%2C%20bud%2C%20nipple,%2C%20twig%2C%20and%20root%20galls.)

[agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/faqs/what-causes-galls-on-trees/.](http://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/faqs/what-causes-galls-on-trees/)