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The Life and Times of The Azalea Lace Bug

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Adult azalea lace bug—the beautiful and delicate looking wings give the bug its common name.

Adult azalea lace bug and its piercing –sucking mouthparts. It inserts these mouthparts into the stomata on the underside of the leaf and consumes the parenchyma tissue.

The azalea lace bug (*Stephanitis pyrioides*) is a pest of *Rhododendron* that is native to Asia that was recently introduced to the Pacific Northwest.

Rhododendron is a major component of both public and private landscapes in Western Washington. The azalea lace bug can cause severe aesthetic and physiological damage to *Rhododendron* leaves, and severe infestations can result in plant death.

The purpose of this study is to:

- Observe egg hatch and validate laboratory degree-day models.
- Photograph damage and use image processing software to quantify damaged tissue. Using this data, we will identify and rate the susceptibility of available Rhododendron species, hybrids, and cultivars.

Typical stippling pattern of damage on *Rhododendron* leaves. (Photo by Ryan Garrison)

Azalea lace bug nymphs and fecal spotting on the underside of a *Rhododendron* leaf.