Gall flies on Mango

Recognize the problem
Gall flies are small flies about 1-2 mm. The female pierces and lays eggs on young leaves. The eggs hatch later into maggots. These maggots make the tissue swollen and soft leading to formation of galls. A gall fly maggot lives inside each of the galls, which are about 4mm wide. The galls cause the bordering tissues to die. Severe invasion of the galls makes the leaf die and drop early. Young trees may die and old trees fail to pick up normal growth after many attacks.

Background
Gall flies are killed by many species of wasps. Maggots move from the leaf to the soil where they develop into adults. During heavy infestation, leaves fall carrying maggots which develop into adult gall flies.

Management
Non-chemical control
• Conserve parasitic wasps which are natural enemies for gall flies.
• If possible, flood the soil around the mango trees before flowering. This stops the emergence of the gall flies from the soil.

Chemical sprays are neither recommended nor necessary.

Scientific name(s) > *Erosomyia mangiferae*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Dominica, India, Kenya, Saint Lucia, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago

Authors: This factsheet is based on information written for "The Mango Farming Handbook", first published by KENGAP Horticulture 2011.
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