

# Looking for Insects in Winter



Royal  
Botanical  
Gardens

Just because they aren't out and about in winter, doesn't mean that we can't see evidence of insects. Below are some examples of signs that insects are around, even if you can't see the critter itself.

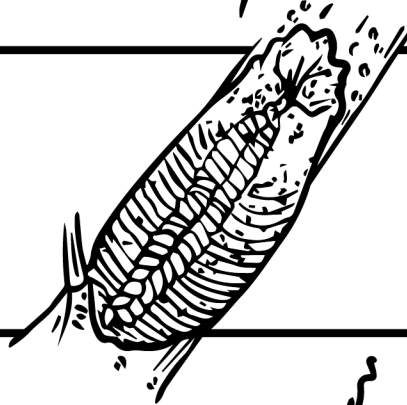
## Goldenrod Gall Ball

These round swellings on goldenrod stems are caused by a Goldenrod Gall Fly. A larva will spend the winter inside of the gall.



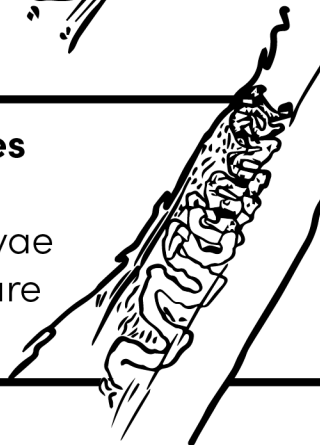
## Praying Mantis Egg Case

These cases, called ootheca are made by females each fall. The young develop in the case over the winter.



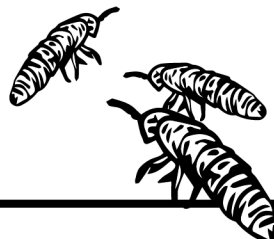
## Emerald Ash Borer Larvae Galleries

These tunnels found under the bark of trees are caused by the larvae of Emerald Ash Borer beetles that are eating the inner bark of the tree.



## Active Snowfleas

Just before spring comes, you may see groups of Snowfleas out playing in the snow. Usually seen in large groups around the trunk of a tree.



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## Puffy Cattails from Cattail Moth Larva

Within the normal-appearing puffed up cattail is the larva of a moth staying the winter.



## Garden Spider Egg Case

Wrapped by their mother in silk, there are hundreds to thousands of spider eggs waiting to hatch in spring.



## Holes from Acorn Weevils

If you find an acorn on the ground, look to see if it has a perfectly round, tiny hole. This is left by an Acorn Weevil that used the acorn as it's home.



## Cecropia Moth Cocoon

Tucked inside multiple spun layers of silk is the moth larva of a Cecropia Moth, ready to emerge the following spring.

