

Pear Rust - *Gymnosporangium sabinae* (aka *G. fuscum*)

Pear rust appears to be increasingly common on pear trees, where it can cause major defoliation during late summer. It becomes evident as small orange lesions, bearing spermagonia (left) on the upper sides of the leaves. These develop gall-like structures (aecia) on the lower surface (right).

These photographs were sent in by Jean, illustrating the pathogen on pear trees in Bristol. It is also common on pear trees in Clevedon and appears to have increased in occurrence in recent years.

G. sabinae is also known as the Pear Juniper Rust because its alternative host is Juniper, on which it may overwinter. On this host it forms perennial infections on the stem, which in spring release wind-blown spores that infect Pear trees. In SW England, Juniper is uncommon and it seems likely that, under mild conditions, this fungus can overwinter on fallen pear leaves and directly re-infect young pear leaves.

