Managing scale insects

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2015 Japanese beetle is a serious pest in mainland Europe; at two airports in northern Italy at Piedmont and Lombardy, feeding on both wild plants and nearby crops.

2020 Pine tortoise scale invades umbrella pines in Rome

1840 Monarch butterflies in Hawaii, Australia, New Zeland, Spain, Pacific Islands, and International Space Station!!



Taxonomy of scales

- Order Hemiptera, formerly placed in order Homoptera
- related to aphids/mealybugs
- Diaspididae, armored scales
- Coccidae, soft scales
- Eriococcidae, felt scales



Life-history traits of armored scales (Diaspididae) and soft scales (Coccidae, Eriococcidae)

ARMORE	D SCALE	SOFT SCALE
soft cover attached to the scale	no	yes
eggs laid in sac-like structure	yes	yes
overwintering stages	eggs/mated	mated/2nd
seasonal time for crawlers	late Apr/June	Apr/Aug
ability to move after crawler stage	no	yes
honeydew production	no	abundant
feeding site on the plant	parenchyma	phloem

Soft scales (Coccidae, Eriococcidae)

GH soft scales brown soft scale black scale hemispherical scales

Landscape soft scales cottony maple scale European fruit lecanium scale Fletcher scale pine tortoise scale spruce bud scale tuliptree scale calico scale

Felt scales, Eriococcidae European elm scale

Armored scales (Diaspididae)

GH armored scles Boisduval scale Fern scale

Landscape armored scales black pineleaf scale euonymus scale gloomy scale juniper scale obscure scale oystershell scale pine needle scale scurfy scale

Managing scale insects

1. To get rid of scale insects prune and dispose of infested branches, twigs and leaves.

- 2. When scale numbers are low they may be rubbed or picked off of plants by hand.
- 3.Dabbing individual pests with an alcohol-soaked cotton swab or neem-based leaf shine will also work when infestations are light.

Double side tape for crawlers Use IGR, Insect growth regulators, carbaryl Imidacloprid, Marathon liquid, granular

armored scales Dinotefuran, Safari, not imidacloprid, Marathon

Managing scale insects with BC

Common name	Trade name	Mode of action
Fenoxycarb	Preclude	Juvenile Hormone Mimic
Kinoprene	Enstar II/AQ	Juvenile Hormone Mimic
Distance	Pyriproxyfen	Juvenile Hormone Mimic
Crymomazine	Citation	Chitinase Inhibitor
Extoxazol	Tetrasan	Chitinase Inhibitor
Novaluron	Pedestal	Chitinase Inhibitor
Azadiractin	Azatin, Ornazin	Ecdysone Antagonist

Eriococcid, felt scale



summer adult female with crawlers

European elm scale scale: elm



summer male

Soft scale



summer female and crawlers

Tuliptree scale: linden, walnut



summer females



male covers

Tuliptree scale: linden, walnut



spring adult females and males

Armored scale



males

Euonymus scale: euonymus



gall-like scale



Pin oak kermes, Pubescent kermes scale: oak

Characteristics of armored and soft scales

- .Long stylets for feeding
- Males have different shaped covers
- Males look like winged aphids
- Crawler stage
- High density can kill branches
- Oils, chlorpyrifos
- Imidacloprid (soft only)
- Egg, crawler, nymph, immature, adult

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Soft scales (Coccidae, Eriococcidae)

SOFT SCALES calico scale cottony maple scale European fruit lecanium scale Fletcher scale pine tortoise scale spruce bud scale tuliptree scale

FELT SCALES European elm scale (Eriococcidae)

Coccus hesperidium Order Hemiptera Family Coccidae

Description: Females are 2.5 to 4 mm long, yellowish to brown, often mottled. Crawlers and nymphs are yellow. Males are winged.



Crawlers and females

Hosts: Hundreds of plants, especially perennials and ferns.

Life History: Crawlers are born under female covers.

Damage: Stunted growth, wilting, leaf drop, honeydew, sooty mold.



Crawler (L) and adult female

Brown soft scale on *Ficus*. Note the shiny honeydew secretions.



Monitoring: Look for insects and damage.

Cultural Control: Remove infested plants.

Chemical Control: Oils or systemic insecticides such as imidacloprid. Control is difficult because waxy coverings protect the insects.

> Brown soft scale and scale cover with parasitoid exit hole



Biological Control: Lady beetles *Rhyzobius Iophanthae*, *Chilocorus orbus*, and *C. cacti* and parasitic wasps *Metaphycus helvolus* and *M. luteolus*.



Chilocorus orbus

Rhyzobius lophanthae

Hemispherical Scale

Saissetia coffeae Order Hemiptera Family Coccidae

Description: Females are 2 to 4.5 mm long; hemispherical, brown, s http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/ biodiversity/invertebratesprog/softscales/fauna/coffeae.asp



Young females may have ridges in the form of the letter "H." Crawlers are pinkish beige.

Hosts: Many plants, including bamboo, croton, camellia, crape myrtle, chrysanthemum, fern, fig, gardenia, honeysuckle, lily, orchid, zamia.

Hemispherical Scale

Life History: Parthenogenic. Eggs hatch under female covers. Females die after laying eggs.

Damage: Honeydew, sooty mold.

Monitoring: Look for insects and damage.



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 www.insectimages.org

Hemispherical Scale

Cultural Control: Remove infested plants.

Chemical Control: Oils, biorationals, and systemic insecticides such as imidacloprid. Chemical control is difficult because scale coverings protect the insects.

Biological Control: *Rhyzobius Iophanthae* and *Metaphycus helvolus*.



Top and side views of hemispherical scale



Armored scales (Diaspididae) Amored scales

black pineleaf scale euonymus scale gloomy scale juniper scale obscure scale oystershell scale pine needle scale scurfy scale

Boisduval Scale

Diaspis boisduvali Order Hemiptera Family Diaspididae

Description: Adult females are 1.2 to 2.25 mm in diameter, circular or oval, flat, white to light yellow,



and semitransparent. Males are somewhat rectangular, elongate, about 1 mm in length, and white with three ridges down the back.

Boisduval Scale

Hosts: Orchids, palms, banana, and cactus.

Life History: In the greenhouse this scale can complete its life cycle in about 50 days. Females may produce up to 200 eggs in a lifetime. Generations overlap.



Boisduval Scale

Damage: Chlorotic spots and death of leaves.

Monitoring: Look for adults, crawlers, damage.

Cultural Control: Try to purchase plants from a supplier who does not have a scale infestation.



North Carolina State University

Chemical Control: Oils and other insecticides. Chemical control is difficult because waxy scale coverings protect the insects.

Fern Scale

Pinnaspis aspidistrae Order Hemiptera Family Diaspididae

Description: Adult females are pear or oystershell shaped, flat, light brown, and



University of Florida

1.5 to 2.5 mm long. Immature males are white felted and three-ridged. Adult males are tiny and winged. Crawlers are yellow.

Hosts: Fern, liriope, citrus, and others.

Fern Scale

Life History: Females lay eggs under armor, then die. First instar crawlers are active. Males emerge from second instar armor and crawl or fly to female scales to mate.

Damage: Yellow spots and reduced vigor.

Monitoring: Look for adults, crawlers, damage.



Brown female and white male covers

Fern Scale

Cultural Control: Purchase from a supplier who doesn't have scales.

Chemical Control: Use carefully; ferns are sensitive to chemicals.



http://www.entomologi.no/insektnytt/1996-3/Skjoldlus.HTM

Planococcus citri **Order Hemiptera Family Pseudococcidae Hosts:** Females grow to 3 mm long. White, waxy filaments protrude from the periphery. Males are small and winged. **Crawlers are yellow.**

Adult female, nymph, and crawlers



Hosts: Plants in 27 familes, including begonia, coleus, amaryllis, cyclamen, and dahlia.

Life History: Females produce cottony ovisacs from which crawlers appear. Males are rarely

seen.

 Image: Contract of the contract of the

Adult male

Damage: Distorted growth, leaf drop, honeydew, sooty mold, cottony wax.

Monitoring: Look for cottony wax, adult females, and crawlers.

Cultural Control: Remove infested plants.

Mealybugs on coleus. Note the white wax, yellow crawlers and pale pink females.



Chemical Control: Oils, biorationals, and systemic insecticides such as imidacloprid.

Biological Control: The lady beetle *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri* and parasitic

wasps *Leptomastix dactylopii* and *Anagyrus pseudococci*.

> Cryptolaemus montrouzieri. The larva mimics a mealybug.



Longtailed Mealybug

Pseudococcus longispinus Order Hemiptera Family Pseudococcidae

Description: Adult females have 17 pairs of filaments and are 6 to 7 mm long including filaments. Males have wings.

Adult females (top and bottom)





Longtailed Mealybug

Hosts: Many plants. Dracaena is a favorite.

Life History: Females give birth to live young on fluffy wax.

Damage: Distorted growth, honeydew, sooty mold, fluffy wax.

Monitoring: Look for cottony wax, adult females, and crawlers.


Longtailed Mealybug

Cultural Control: Remove infested plants.

Chemical Control: Oils, biorationals, and systemic insecticides such as imidacloprid. Chemical control is difficult.

Adult male

Biological Control: Cryptolaemus montrouzieri,

lacewing larvae, and the parasitic wasp *Anagyrus nigricornis*.



Root Mealybugs

Rhizoecus spp. Order Hemiptera Family Pseudococcidae

Description: White and 1.6 to 3.9 mm long (depending on species). Some have waxy filaments that form a netting.



Nymphs

Hosts: Many plants, including chrysanthemum, anemone, gladiolus, iris, African violet, *Achillea, Arctostaphylos, Geum*, and *Polygala*.

Root Mealybugs

Life History: Eggs are laid in a loose ovisac. All stages can be found on roots and potting mix of African violets.

Damage: Devitalization, foliage deterioration, death.

Monitoring: Examine plant root balls. The presence of ants can indicate mealybugs.

Cultural Control: Remove infested plants, control ants.

Chemical Control: Systemic insecticides, such as imidacloprid, are the most effective.

Landscape scales

Magnolia Scale Females with Crawlers

Soft scales (Coccidae, Eriococcidae) **SOFT SCALES** calico scale cottony maple scale **European fruit lecanium scale** Fletcher scale pine tortoise scale spruce bud scale tuliptree scale **Magnolia scale**

FELT SCALES European elm scale (Eriococcidae)

European Elm Scale

Gossyparia spuria Family Eriococcidae Introduced pest

Hosts: Elm, Celtis species, and zelkova.



European Elm Scale

Life History: Eggs in May, crawlers in June and July. One generation a year.

Overwintering: Immatures in bark cracks.



winter immatures

European Elm Scale

Damage: Stunted, chlorotic foliage, premature leaf drop, branch dieback, sooty mold.

Monitoring: Look for honeydew, mature females, crawlers, and damage.



summer crawlers



Chemical Control: Insecticides, oil. Biological Control: Beneficials usually occur.



summer adult female with crawlers

Calico Scale

Eulecanium cerasorum Family Coccidae Native pest

Hosts: Crabapple, dogwood, elm, firethorn, maple, sweet gum, star magnolia, zelkova, and all stone fruit trees.



Life History: One generation per year. Crawlers feed on leaf veins during summer.

Calico Scale

Overwintering: Second instar.

Monitoring: Look for adults and crawlers, honeydew, and sooty mold.

Chemical Control: Dormant oil, horticultural oil or soap residual insecticides.

Biological Control: Minute pirate bugs, lacewings, lady beetles, predaceous midges; parasitoids *Aphytis, Coccophagus, Encarsia*, and *Metaphycus*; yellow-rumped warbler.

Pulvinaria innumerabilis Family Coccidae Native pest

Hosts: Maples, honeylocust, linden, other hardwoods.



Life History: Immature females emerge in spring. Eggs and crawlers appear in summer. Overwintering: Mated females on twigs.



winter adult females

Damage: Sooty mold, leaf yellowing, foliage drop, dieback.

Monitoring: Look for old egg sacs and crawlers on the underside of leaf margins.

Chemical control: Insecticides, horticultural oil or soap.

summer crawlers

Biological Control: Minute pirate bugs, lacewings, lady beetles, predaceous midges; parasitoids *Aphytis, Coccophagus, Metaphycus*, and *Encarsia*;

English sparrow.





European Fruit Lecanium

Parthenolecanium corni Family Coccidae Native pest

Hosts: Flowering fruit trees, maples, others.



Spring adult females Life History: Females mature in spring and lay eggs. Crawlers feed in summer. One generation per year

European Fruit Lecanium

Overwintering: Immatures.

Damage: Honeydew, sooty mold, dieback.

Monitoring: Look for adult females, crawlers, honeydew, and sooty mold.

Chemical Control: Soil application of insecticides, oil sprays.



winter immatures

European Fruit Lecanium

Biological Control: Minute pirate bugs, lacewings, lady beetles, predaceous midges; parasitoids *Aphytis, Coccophagus, Encarsia*, and *Metaphycus*.



summer eggs under cover

Fletcher Scale

Parthenolecanium fletcheri Family Coccidae Native pest

Hosts: Yew, arborvitae, juniper.

Life History: Immatures in spring, eggs in May and June. Crawlers feed on needles. One generation per year.

> spring adult females



Fletcher Scale

Overwintering: Immatures on shoots and undersides of leaves.

Damage: Honeydew, sooty mold, yellow needles, needle drop.

Monitoring: Look for honeydew, sooty mold, and the insects.



winter nymphs

Fletcher Scale

Chemical Control: Soil application of insecticides, horticultural oil.

Biological Control: Minute pirate bugs, lacewings, lady beetles, predaceous midges; parasitoids Aphytis, Coccophagus, Encarsia, and Metaphycus.



above: male and female covers below: adult females



Pine Tortoise Scale

Toumeyella parvicornisFamily CoccidaeNative pestHosts: Pines.Life History: Onegeneration per yearon twigs.



Overwintering: Immatures on twigs.

Damage: Sooty mold, yellowing of branch tips, dieback.

Pine Tortoise Scale

Monitoring: Look for scale covers and reddish crawlers. Look for ants seeking honeydew, sooty mold, and needle yellowing.



spring adult females



Pine Tortoise Scale

Physical Control: Remove and destroy infested branches.

Chemical Control: Dormant oil sprays.



spring adult females

Toumeyella liriodendri Family Coccidae Native pest

Hosts: Tuliptree, magnolia, basswood, hickory, buttonbush, linden, redbay, and walnut.

> summer female and crawlers



Life History: Females mature in spring, males emerge in June, live crawlers are produced. One generation per year.

Overwintering: Second instars on twigs.



male covers

summer male

Damage: Honey dew, sooty mold, leaf yellowing, leaf drop, and dieback.





above: summer dead female and settled crawlers left: summer nymphs

Monitoring: Look for black immatures overwintering on twigs. Look females and ants tending aphids.



winter immatures

Chemical Control: Dormant oil sprays, oil or soap in late June.





summer females

Spruce Bud Scale

Physokermes picea Family Coccidae Native pest

Hosts: Spruce.

Life History: Females complete mature in April. Crawlers appear in June and July. One generation per year.

Overwintering: Immatures on the underside of needles.

Spruce Bud Scale

Damage: Honey dew, sooty mold.

- Monitoring: Look for adult females, honeydew, sooty mold, and dieback.
- Chemical Control: Dormant oil sprays, oil or soap in late June.



summer females

Armored scales (Diaspididae)

ARMORED SCALES black pineleaf scale euonymus scale gloomy scale juniper scale obscure scale oystershell scale pine needle scale scurfy scale

Black Pineleaf Scale

Nuculaspis californica Family Diaspididae Native pest

Hosts: Douglas fir, jack and mugo pines, other pines.

Life History: One generation per year on needles.

Overwintering: Immature stages.



summer adult females



Black Pineleaf Scale

Damage: Yellow needles, loss of needles, short needles.

Monitoring: Look for adults and crawlers, yellow and short needles.

Chemical Control: Dormant oil, insecticides.

Biological Control: Parasitic wasps, *Prospaltella* sp. and *Physcus varicornis*.

summer adult females

Scurfy Scale & Elm Scurfy Scale

Chionaspis furfura & C. americana Family Diaspididae Native pests

Hosts: Elm, apple, crabapple, mountain ash, aspen, willow, dogwood.

> top and bottom: summer females



Scurfy Scale & Elm Scurfy Scale

Life History: Crawlers appear in June mature in August, mate and lay eggs. One generation, possibly two, per year.

Overwintering: Eggs under dead mother scale.

Damage: Twig and branch dieback.



crawlers
Scurfy Scale & Elm Scurfy Scale

Monitoring: Look for scale covers and crawlers.

Cultural Control: Most populations can be controlled by reducing tree stress. Avoid killing natural enemies with insecticides.

Chemical Control: Horticultural oil or soap during crawler emergence.

> male and female covers



Chionaspis pinifoliae Family Diaspididae Native pest

Hosts: Douglas fir, fir, hemlock, pine, spruce.



summer adult females

Life History: Crawlers hatch and mature during the summer and eggs are laid in the fall. One generation per year.

Overwintering: Eggs under scale covers.



nymphs



Damage: Brown needles, loss of needles.

Monitoring: Look for scale covers and crawlers.



adult females

Physical Control: Remove and destroy heavily infested branches.

Chemical Control: Dormant oil sprays.



parasitoid and predator

parasitoid

Gloomy Scale

Melanaspis tenebricosa **Family Diaspididae Native pest** Hosts: Red and silver maples, boxelder, catalpa, elm, hackberry, mulberry, sycamore.



spring adult female

Gloomy Scale

Life History: Eggs and crawlers in June and July, adults in August. One generation a year.

Overwintering: Mated females.



spring adult female

Gloomy Scale

Damage: Stunting and dieback.

Monitoring: Look for scale covers and crawlers.

Chemical Control: Dormant oil.

Biological Control: Minute pirate bugs, lacewings, lady beetles, predaceous midges; parasitoids *Aphytis, Coccophagus, Encarsia*, and *Metaphycus*.

Obscure Scale

Melanaspis obscura **Family Diaspididae Native pest**

Hosts: Oaks.

Life History: Adults in May, eggs in June,



crawlers in July. One generation a year.

Overwintering: Immature stages.

Damage: Dieback on small branches.

Monitoring: Look for scale covers and crawlers.

Obscure Scale

Cultural Control: Avoid over-fertilizing.

Chemical Control: Dormant sprays, summer

oil sprays.





summer adults

Juniper Scale

Carulaspis juniperi Family Diaspididae Introduced pest Hosts: Juniper, cryptomeria, northern white

cedar, cypress.

Life History: Crawlers appear in late June. One generation per year.



spring adult males and females

Juniper Scale

Overwintering: Adult females on needles.

- **Damage:** Failure of new growth to develop, yellowing, dieback.
- Monitoring: Look for yellowing and scale covers.
- **Chemical Control:** Dormant oil. Do make further insecticide applications if natural enemies are present.
- **Biological Control:** Lady beetles *Hippodamia, Cryptolaemus,* and *Rhizobius*.

Euonymus Scale

Unaspis euonymi Family Diaspididae Introduced pest

Hosts: Euonymus, bittersweet, and pachysandra.

Life History: Two generations per year. Females on bark, males on leaves.



Overwintering: Mated females.

Euonymus Scale

Damage: Yellow spots on leaves, loss of leaves, dieback.

Monitoring: Look for white male covers on leaves, brown female covers on bark, and damage.





Euonymus Scale

Cultural Control: Plant resistant species of Euonymus, such as *E. alatus* and *E. kiautschovicus.*

Chemical Control: Dormant oil.

Biological Control: The lady beetle *Chilocorus kuwaanae.*



Oystershell Scale

Lepidosaphes ulmi Family Diaspididae Native pest

Hosts: Ash, beech, birch, boxwood, cotoneaster, elm, fruit trees, lilac, maple, poplar, willow.

brown adults



Oystershell Scale

Life History: Nymphs mature in mid-summer to mate. Eggs in late summer and early fall. One generation a year.

Overwintering: Eggs under the cover of the dead mother scale.

> winter crawlers



Oystershell Scale

Damage: Cracked bark and chlorotic, stunted foliage, yellowing, wilting, dieback.

Monitoring: Look for crawlers, scale covers, and damage.

Cultural Control: Remove and destroy heavily infested branches.

Chemical Control: Horticultural oils.



summer gray adults



San Jose Scale

Quadraspidiotus perniciosus Family Diaspididae

Hosts: Rosaceous flowering fruits and plants.

Life History: Generations overlap from mid-May through September. Yellow crawlers are active from late June to early July.

Overwintering: First instars on bark.

San Jose Scale

Damage: Inner bark turns red. Leaf wilting, dieback.

Monitoring: Look for scale covers, yellow crawlers, and damage.

Physical Control: Remove and destroy heavily infested branches and braches showing dieback.

Chemical Control: Dormant and summer oil sprays, insecticides.

White Peach Scale

Pseudaulacaspis pentagona Family Diaspididae Hosts: Mulberry, peach, persimmon, and redstemmed dogwoods.



Life History: Several generations a year. Overwintering: Adult females.

White Peach Scale

Damage: Leaf yellowing, leaf drop, dieback.

Monitoring: Look for damage, white male covers, and pink crawlers.

Physical Control: Prune out heavily infested limbs that are showing dieback. Remove accessible white patches on healthy trees by scrubbing.

Chemical Control: Horticultural oil or soap. Use residual insecticides sparingly.

White Prunicola Scale

Pseudaulacaspis prunicola Family Diaspididae

Hosts: *Prunus* spp., lilac, privet.

Life History:



Several generations a year.

Overwintering: Adult females on bark.

White Prunicola Scale

Damage: Leaf yellowing, leaf drop, dieback.

Monitoring: Look for damage, white male covers, and white and pink crawlers.

Physical Control: Prune out heavily infested limbs that are showing dieback. Remove accessible white patches on healthy trees by scrubbing.

Chemical Control: Horticultural oil or soap. Use residual insecticides sparingly.

Pubescent Leaf Kermes & Pin Oak Kermes



Nanokermes pubescens & Allokermes galliformis Family Kermesidae Native pests

Hosts: Oak.

Life History: Females on leaf stems, males on branches. Eggs in June and July. One generation per year.

summer female

Pubescent Leaf Kermes & Pin Oak Kermes Overwintering: Crawlers in bark.





summer females Pubescent Leaf Kermes & Pin Oak Kermes

Damage: Leaf distortion, flagging, yellowing, dieback.

Monitoring: Look for the insects.

Chemical Control: Dormant oils, residual insecticides.

Biological control: Parasitic wasps (family Encrytidae), the lady beetle *Chilocerus stigma*.