

# Insects



## Euonymus Scale

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*Originally developed by Jamie Yanes, Jr., Former Assistant Professor*

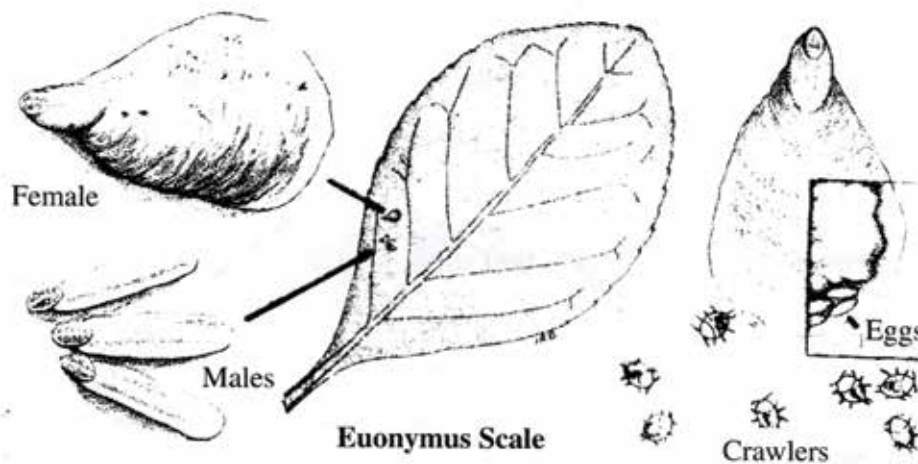
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Euonymus scale, *Unaspis euonymi* (Comstock), is the most reported insect pest of euonymus, pachysandra and American bittersweet species in the Southeast. Other known host plants for this insect include hollies, cameillia, twinberry, boxwood, *Daphne*, English ivy, hibiscus, jasmine, privet, honeysuckle, *Pachistima* and *Prunus*. Winged euonymus is usually free from this scale.

### Damage

Damage is first seen as yellow spotting on the upper surface of the leaves. The scale insect sucks sap from the leaves and stems. As the populations increase in number, stems and leaves become encrusted with the scales. Leaves may drop as result of serious feeding damage. Whole branches or the entire plant may die.



*Center: Euonymus leaf showing yellowish spots on the upper surface and four scales. Left: Female and male scales. Right: Female scale with portion of protective covering removed to show eggs. Crawlers emerge from under the protective covering and search for a feeding site.*

## Description and Life Cycle

Leaves are covered almost entirely with white males and a few brown females while the stems can be encrusted primarily with females. Male scales are white and about 1/32 inch long. Mature males are small, two-winged insects. The female is 1/16 inch long, oystershell-shaped and dark brown. Winged males emerge and mate with non-mobile females. Eggs are laid under the scale covering. First generation crawlers hatch in late April-May, second generation crawlers emerge in early July and a third brood may appear in August. Crawlers emerge from under the mother's covering and crawl to the leaves and stems before inserting their sucking mouthparts to feed. Crawlers then begin to secrete their protective covering.

Stems and leaves are covered almost entirely with white males and a few brown females. *Euonymus* growing alongside building are often hardest hit by this scale. This scale species overwinters as a fertilized, adult female scale on the plant.

## Control

The application of a dormant oil spray during late winter or early spring before bud break can aid in control. Remove heavily infested branches. The crawler stage is the easiest stage to control. Begin treatments using one of the recommended insecticides in late April or as soon as crawlers are seen on the new foliage. You can find the recommended insecticides at the link below.

<https://tiny.utk.edu/ag/insectandmite>.

Always refer to the insecticide label to make sure that the insecticide can be legally applied on ornamental plants at your site, such as residential landscape or commercial nursery.

Several additional applications may be needed during the season, targeting the crawlers of subsequent generations.

### Disclaimer

This publication contains pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. The label always takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication.

Use of trade or brand names in this publication is for clarity and information; it does not imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others that may be of similar, suitable composition, nor does it guarantee or warrant the standard of the product. The author(s), the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and University of Tennessee Extension assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

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