

European Fruit Lecanium Scale

Parthenolecanium corni

Description

European fruit lecanium is a soft scale insect that infests a wide range of host plants, including many deciduous shade and flowering fruit trees. Female scale are about 6 millimeters long and are mottled brown to reddish brown. Female scale also have a raised round body when mature. This pest can be difficult to identify because the coloration and body shape may vary depending upon the host plant colonized.

Host Plants

- Birch
- Hornbeam
- Maple
- Other shade trees and ornamental fruit trees

Life Cycle

Male scale mate with females in early spring and then die. As with many soft scale species, female scale can lay about 1,000 or more eggs, and populations can build quickly. Crawlers hatch from early June through mid-July. Crawlers move to the leaves where they settle near leaf veins. In late August, crawlers move back to the twigs. Newly hatched crawlers are initially white and become yellow with age. There is one generation per season.

Monitoring

Look for adult females on the underside of pencil-sized twigs between May and early June. Begin checking in June for honeydew, dark sooty mold and crawlers on the undersides of leaves. Also, watch for twig and branch dieback.



Damage Symptoms



The large number of new crawlers produced each generation can lead to copious honeydew production and a high probability that sooty mold fungus will disfigure host plants and foliage of adjacent plant species. Dieback of limbs and branches may become apparent, and the infested plant may become weakened.



Integrated Pest Management

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Minute pirate bugs, lacewings, ladybird beetles, predaceous midges and parasitoid wasps feed on these scale insects.

CULTURAL CONTROL

Scale insects should be managed as soon as detected to avoid larger populations or population explosions. Scale thrive on stressed plants. Proper fertilization and irrigation will promote a healthy plant. Do not over fertilize, though, because excessive fertilizer can increase scale populations, injure foliage and roots, and cause other problems.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Please refer to http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/redbook/sections/trees_flowers.htm for the most up-to-date recommendations.

Resources

Photo credits: Amy Fulcher, University of Tennessee and Lee Townsend, University of Kentucky

Lacy L. Hyche, Auburn University, Bugwood.org

Ronald S. Kelley, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Bugwood.org

United States National Collection of Scale Insects Photographs Archive, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

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