

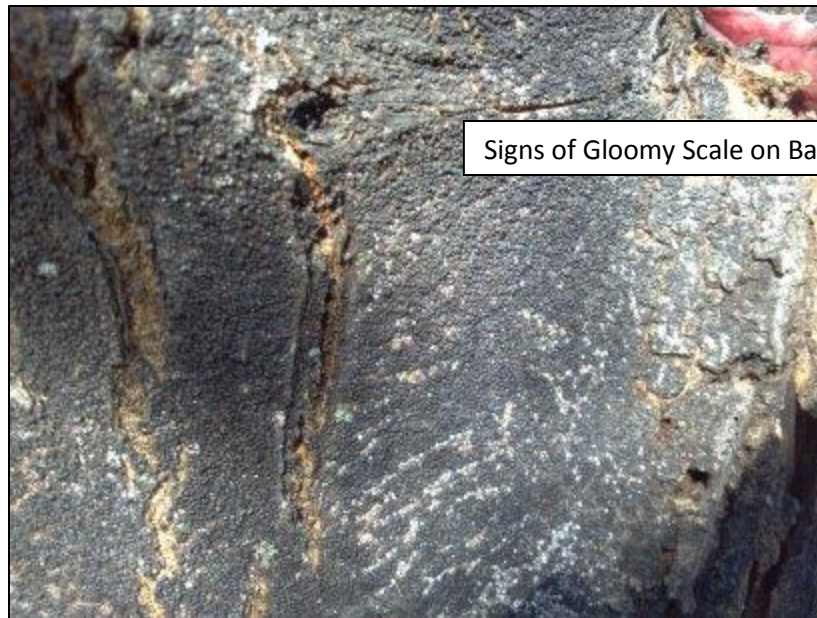


## KNOWING IS ½ THE BATTLE: Gloomy Scale

Gloomy scale (*Melanaspis tenebricosus*) are armored scales that cause considerable damage to red maples. These insects may also be found on; snowbell (*Styrax*), grape, Chinaberry, hollies, mulberry, sweetgum, and buckthorn. The shells, or tests, of gloomy scale appear as small black bumps and can be found on the trunk and limbs of trees. These insects feed directly from the tree. Over time severe infestations can lead to branch death, and may contribute to over-all tree decline.

Female gloomy scales begin laying eggs in spring, with crawlers hatching in late spring – late summer. By late summer, winged males emerge to mate. Adult female scales overwinter on the bark and limbs of affected trees.

Control for gloomy scale should target the immature crawler phase, as the mature scale's test provides protection from contact sprayed insecticides. Soil and trunk applied systemic insecticides have not shown to adequately control this insect.



Signs of Gloomy Scale on Bark of Red Maple