



KNOWING IS ½ THE BATTLE: Lecanium Scale

Lecanium scale describes several species of soft scales found nation wide that affect a wide host range of trees and woody ornamentals. They are commonly found on oak and dogwood species. These pests extract sap directly from the host.



Adult female scales are found on twigs and form a reddish brown covering called a test, which are 2mm-6mm in diameter. Adult males are small winged insects which usually go unnoticed. Females lay eggs April – May. Immature scales, or crawlers, hatch in late May – June and are present until late summer, when they move back to twigs to overwinter.

Symptoms of lecanium scale infestation; include leaf chlorosis, stunting, and early defoliation. These scales also excrete honeydew, which in turn sooty mold may grow on. There are several control options including soil and trunk applied systemic insecticides. Foliar spray applications should be timed around crawler emergence.