

Scale Insect Control

Scale insects suck sap from trees, shrubs, and other plants. If infestations are heavy, they may kill branches or entire shrubs or trees.

Much conflicting information on scale insect control exists. According to some recommendations dormant oil sprays are effective against all scales. In our experience, dormant oil sprays do not affect those scales that overwinter in the egg stage such as oyster shell and pine needle. Neither does oil spray affect many individuals of species which tend to pile up on top of each other such as the obscure scale.

The most susceptible stage in the scale insects life cycle is the crawler or young scale. Unfortunately most species emerge as crawlers over a period of time and require more than one spray. For crawlers use Acephate, cyfluthrin, horticultural oil, permethrin, insecticidal soap, or malathion plus carbaryl (= Sevin), 25E, all at rates normally recommended for other insect pests. For trial use only: dimethoate (Cygon) has given excellent control of many of the scales mentioned below. Imidacloprid, a soil applied insecticide, can also be used against several of scale species. Timing of sprays in crawler sprays is difficult because the crawler stage hatching will vary from year to year depending upon the temperature. Before buying any insecticide to use against scales read the label to determine if the plant and scale you have are on the label. Follow all label instructions. Often it takes two or three years of consecutive treating the plants to cleanup a scale problem. Apply crawler sprays according to the following schedule:

Species	Best Time to Control Crawlers
Arborvitae soft scale	June 15 and 22*
Azalea bark scale	June 15 and 22*
Calico scale	June 1 and 10**
Cottony maple scale	June 15 and 26*
(<i>P. innumerabilis</i>)	
False cottony maple scale 1	June 21 and 28*
Elm scurfy scale	May 1 and 11*

Euonymus scale	May 20 and 30*
	August 15 and 20*
European elm scale	June 15 and 26**
	September 10 and 20*
European fruit lecanium	June 25 and July 5
Fletcher scale	June 20 and 27
Forbes scale	June 5
Fiorinia scale	May 15 and 22, July 15 and 25
Globular peach scale	June 15 and 25***
Globose scale	June 15 and 30*
Golden oak scale	June 15 and 25
Hemlock scale	June 20 and 30*
(Aspediotus ithacae)	
Holly pit-making scale	July 1 and 10*
Juniper scale	June 1 and 10*
Magnolia scale	August 31 and September 7*
Maple leaf scale	June 15 and 28
Oak kermes scale	May 10 and August 20
	(July 10 - Dover)
Obscure scale	July 10 and 21*
Oyster shell scale	May 25 and June 5*
	July 25 and August 5
Pine needle scale	May 25 and June 5
	August 15 and 25*
Putnam's scale	July 15 and 25*
Rhododendron scale	June 15 and 25
Rose scale	June 15 and 25
San Jose scale	June 15, 25 and July 5
Sweet gum scale	June 1 and 10

Spruce bud scale	June 15 and 25*
Tulip tree scale	September 5 and 12**
Walnut scale	June 1 and 10
Wax scale	June 5 and 15
White peach scale	May 25 and June 5

* Based on one year's record in Delaware.

** Based on two year's records in Delaware.

*** Based on three or more year's records in Delaware.

1 A cottony species common on dogwood which seems to be *Pulvinaria floccifera*.

Pesticides mentioned in this publication are generally listed as the active ingredient or common chemical name. The active ingredient is the chemical in the formulation that is active against the pest. Read the pesticide label to determine if the correct active ingredient is present. Regardless of the product you choose, be sure the plant and/or the pest you want to control is on the label .

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