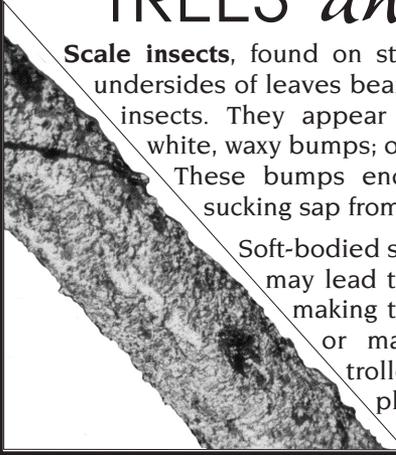




HEALTHY LANDSCAPE PROBLEM SOLVER

SCALE INSECTS *on* TREES *and* SHRUBS



Scale insects, found on stems, small branches, or the undersides of leaves bear little resemblance to typical insects. They appear as brownish crusty bumps; white, waxy bumps; or clusters of flat, scaly bumps. These bumps enclose the insects which are sucking sap from the plant.

Soft-bodied scales produce honeydew that may lead to a black sooty mold fungus, making the leaves appear black, and/or may attract ants. An uncontrolled infestation may kill the plant after several seasons.

READ THE LABEL BEFORE BUYING ANY PESTICIDE. Re-read the label before using, storing or disposing of the pesticide — the label is the law. Following label instructions will help reduce risks to human health and the environment.



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION
OAKLAND
COUNTY

PROJECT SPONSORED BY SOCRRA
In cooperation with: MSU Extension - Oakland County
Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association
Michigan Department of Agriculture

Funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
August 2000

SCALE INSECTS CONTROL OPTIONS

There are usually several management options for solving any pest or disease problem. Use the non-pesticide approach whenever possible, saving pesticide use as the last line of defense. If a pest is identified at a damaging level, select a control targeted to the problem. This decision-making process is called "Integrated Pest Management" or "IPM".

LIFE CYCLE AND TIMING OF CONTROLS

Females lay their eggs on leaves or bark. Young scales, called crawlers, settle on leaves and twigs, and suck sap from the plant; they are only visible for a very brief time as they begin to suck sap from the plant.

Over 20 types of scale insects are found in Southeast Michigan - each with its own time of emergence of crawlers. Since crawlers are only visible for a short time, timing is critical for effective control. Contact the MSU Extension-Oakland County Garden Hotline for specific recommendations: 248/858-0902.

MECHANICAL REMOVAL

Remove scales from twigs with a soft brush or your fingernail, or from leaves with a soft cloth and soapy water. Rinse well.

HORTICULTURAL OILS

Apply horticultural oils in late winter/early spring to control overwintering eggs. Apply during early summer and fall to control crawlers. Follow label instructions.

CHEMICAL CONTROLS

If you have decided to use a chemical insecticide, read the "Precautionary Statements" on the label before making your selection.

Sources of information:

Greg Patchan, Horticulture Agent, Oakland County MSU Extension.

Ellis and Bradley, *Natural Insect and Disease Control*, Rodale Press

Ellis, *Taylor's Weekend Gardening Guides*:

Organic Pest & Disease Control, Houghton Mifflin

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Oakland County Garden Hotline: 248/858-0902

National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN): 1-800-858-7378

(Information about environmental and health effects of specific chemicals)

Household pesticide disposal: Call SOCRRA for an appointment: 248/288-5153

Website: healthylandscapes.com