

# Scale

There are two main types of scale - armored and soft. Armored scales can kill plants when their populations get too high, while soft scales reduce plant vigor but seldom kill the plant. These insects live under their protective covers, making them hard to kill. Although scale can attack any plant, they are commonly found on euonymus, magnolia, and pine trees.

## Signs & Symptoms

- Heavily-infested plants will often look water-stressed.
- Leaves turn yellow and drop, twigs and limbs may die
- Cause large amounts of honeydew, which causes black, sooty mold to grow

## Life Cycle

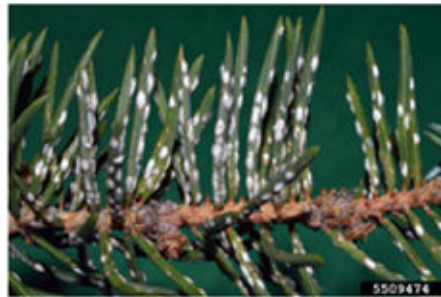
- Armored scales usually have several generations a year
- Soft scales have a single generation
- The best time to kill them is at the crawler stage. The actual date of this stage depends on the type of scale.

## Management

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### **Magnolia Scale is the most common scale problem in our area.**

If using a systemic drench insecticide - the chemical needs to be applied no later than the end of July. If using insecticidal soaps, oils, or other insecticides for scale - the "crawlers" appear in August through September and the chemical needs to be sprayed at that time. This will require at least 2 applications, 7 to 10 days apart. Dormant oils need to be sprayed just before bud break (usually late March).



Photos Minnesota State Horticultural Society, Utah State University Extension