

University of Tennessee, Knoxville **Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange**

Insects, Pests, Plant Diseases and Weeds

UT Extension Publications

5-14-2013

W289-R IPM QuickFacts Series: Oystershell Scale

Amy Fulcher

Heather Bowers

Follow this and additional works at: http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk agexdise



Part of the Agriculture Commons, Botany Commons, and the Horticulture Commons

Recommended Citation

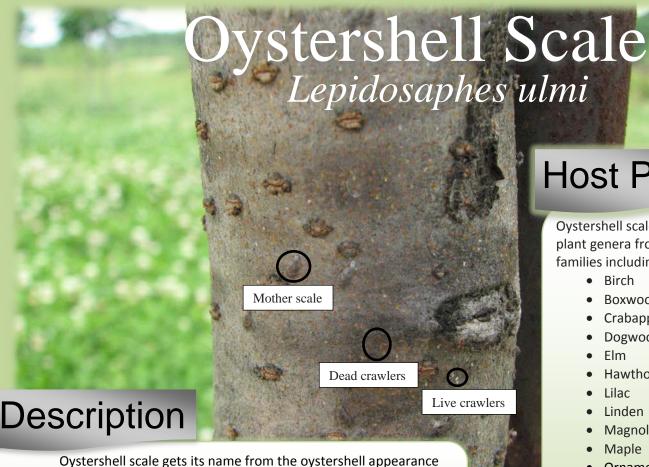
"W289-R IPM QuickFacts Series: Oystershell Scale," Amy Fulcher and Heather Bowers,

, http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk agexdise/68

The publications in this collection represent the historical publishing record of the UT Agricultural Experiment Station and do not necessarily reflect current scientific knowledge or recommendations. Current information about UT Ag Research can be found at the UT Ag Research website. This Ornamental insects, Pests & Diseases is brought to you for free and open access by the UT Extension Publications at Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Insects, Pests, Plant Diseases and Weeds by an authorized administrator of Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact trace@utk.edu.







of its waxy coating. This armored scale insect has two forms: the brown/apple form and the lilac form. It is an economically important pest in nurseries, landscapes and orchards. The oystershell scale is mainly a northern species and is commonly found in most states except those bordering Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico.

Life Cycle

Oystershell scale overwinter as white eggs protected beneath the waxy covering of the adult female scale. The crawlers hatch in the spring and then move a small distance from their mother before settling on the bark to feed (live and dead crawlers and adult scale are circled above). Crawlers form their own protective wax coating about a week later. Because of this narrow window, coordinating spray applications with crawler emergence is very important for achieving good control. Depending on the host and geographic location, oystershell scale may produce one to two generations per year.

Monitoring

Look on the bark for the oystershell-shaped scale covers. Check beneath the scale covers for healthy, white eggs in the spring to estimate the effectiveness of previous control strategies. In late May, begin scouting for crawlers from the first-generation egg hatch, then again in late July when eggs from the second generation hatch.

Host Plants

Oystershell scale attacks 85 plant genera from 33 plant families including:

- Birch
- Boxwood
- Crabapple
- Dogwood
- Elm
- Hawthorn
- Lilac
- Linden
- Magnolia
- Maple
- Ornamental cherry
- Pear
- Redbud
- **Smoketree**
- Viburnum
- Willow



Damage Symptoms



Oystershell scale feeding can lead to cracked bark, stunted foliage, leaf yellowing and wilting. Heavy infestations can cause branch dieback and an overall decline in plant vigor.



BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Several parasitoids and predators, including the twice-stabbed ladybird beetle (*Chilocorus stigma*), attack this pest, but usually they do not appear until after damage has occurred. Predatory mites feed on the eggs and can reduce population size.

CULTURAL CONTROL

Scale insects should be managed as soon as detected to avoid population explosions. Scale thrive on stressed plants. Proper fertilization and irrigation will promote a healthy plant. Do not over fertilize, though, because excessive fertilizer can increase scale populations, injure foliage and roots, and cause other problems.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Please refer to http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/redbook/sections/trees_flowers.htm for the most up-to-date recommendations.

Resources

Photo credits: Amy Fulcher, University of Tennessee

William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, Bugwood.org

United States National Collection of Scale Insects Photographs Archive, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

USDA Forest Service - Region 2 - Rocky Mountain Region Archive, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

USDA Forest Service - Ogden Archive, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Krischik, V. and J. Davidson. 2007. Oystershell scale. IPM of midwest landscapes: Pests of trees and shrubs. University of Minnesota.

http://www.entomology.umn.edu/cues/Web/174OystershellScale.pdf

Miller, D.R. and J.A. Davidson. 2005. Armored scale insect pests of trees and shrubs: (Hemiptera: Diaspididae). Ithaca: Comstock Publishing.

Mussey, G., D. Potter, and M. Potter. Timing control actions for landscape insect pests using flowering plants as indicators. University of Kentucky Extension publication ENT-66. http://www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/entfactpdf/ent66.pdf

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE UT

INSTITUTE of AGRICULTURE

Prepared by Heather Bowers, Intern, Department of Plant Sciences and Dr. Amy Fulcher, Assistant Professor, Department of Plant Sciences

Publication funded by USDA Extension IPM Grant in partnership with University of Kentucky Integrated Pest Management Program.

The authors thank M. Halcomb, B. Klingeman, W. Russell and F. Hale for their careful review.