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Juniper Scale

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Disaster Education Response Team



Juniper Scale

Sujan Dawadi and Karla M. Adesso

The Juniper scale is an armored scale native to Europe and distributed throughout the United States and southern Canada. It mainly attacks junipers but may also feed on arborvitae, cedar, and cypress. The scale is frequently problematic in landscapes and nurseries.

Identifying Juniper Scale

- Juniper scale feeds on the leaves, branches, twigs and cones of its host plants.
- The first indication of damage is often sickly yellow foliage. As the infestation worsens, branches become chlorotic and die back. The entire plant may die as a result of a heavy infestation.
- The female scale cover is circular, 1.5 mm in diameter, slightly convex, and papery in texture. The yellow center of the cover gives it a ‘fried egg’ appearance.
- Male covers are white, oblong and smaller than females.
- The scale overwinters as a mature mated female which begins laying eggs in early spring. After hatching, yellow crawlers settle at a new feeding site.
- Juniper scale has one generation per year in cooler climates but can have two generations or more in warmer climates and in greenhouses.



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

Managing Juniper Scale On Your Property

- Scale insects thrive on stressed plants. Reduce problems through proper cultivar selection, placement, and maintenance.
- Dormant oil spray in late winter/early spring can kill overwintering females and eggs.

*Go to our website www.tnstate.edu/agriculture for additional
Disaster Education Resources.*





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- A combination of horticulture oil/insecticidal soap and an insect growth regulator in late spring can prevent nymphs from molting into adults.
- For severe infestations or infestations on large plants, systemic neonicotinoids can control crawlers if applied at least two weeks before crawlers become active.
- Conserve natural enemies by utilizing targeted treatments. Scout plants for scale prior to pesticide application and spray low residual products when appropriate.
- Contact your local extension agent for additional information.

Always follow pesticide label instructions.



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