

Euonymus Scale

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Euonymus scale (*Unaspis euonymi* Comstock) is an armored scale. Armored scales secrete a hard, waxy, outer covering that protects the insects as they develop and feed. This scale is non-native and has become established throughout the United States and Canada. It is a major pest of euonymus (*Euonymus* spp.) and infests a variety of other plants including pachysandra (*Pachysandra* spp.), privet (*Ligustrum* spp.) and bittersweet (*Celastrus* spp.).

Description and Life Cycle

Males have white, elongate covers approximately 1/32 of an inch in length and females have wider, dark brown covers approximately 1/16 of an inch in length (Figure 1). Males feed and develop under their covers before emerging with wings (Figure 2) to mate with females. The mated females overwinter and begin laying eggs under their covers in April and May. Crawlers emerge from the eggs and move to find a spot to feed. Once the crawlers find a feeding spot, they settle and begin producing a wax covering for their bodies.

There are typically two generations per year. The first generation of crawlers is active from May to June and the second generation from July to August. In warmer areas, a third generation may be active as late as September.

Damage

Euonymus scales feed on both foliage and branch tissue. Armored scales feed by inserting a long, tube-like mouthpart into the plant's nutrient storage cells (parenchyma). Feeding on foliage causes yellow spots (Figure 3). Severely infested plants will also exhibit defoliation (Figure 4), branch dieback and eventually death.

Figure 1: Immature male covers (white) and adult female covers (brown) on euonymus leaf



Figure 2: Winged adult male on euonymus stem



Figure 3: Yellow spots on pachysandra leaves



Figure 4: Severe infestation of euonymus scale on euonymus exhibiting defoliation



Management

There are natural enemies that feed on euonymus scale; however, they are unlikely to be effective at managing heavy infestations. Therapeutic treatments are available for managing this pest. Monitoring scale life stages and correctly timing applications of appropriate products are crucial in effectively managing euonymus scale. Please contact your Bartlett Arborist Representative to learn about management strategies.



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