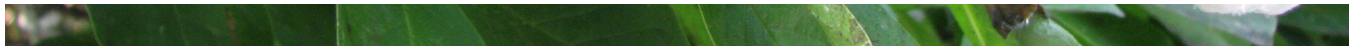




# Understand and Manage Magnolia Scale



**Magnolia scale**, *Neolecanium cornuparvum*, is amongst the largest scale insect to infest shade trees, with some individuals reaching 1/2" in length. As the common name suggests, this scale is a frequent pest of magnolia species, including star, saucer, and the cucumber tree. A conspicuous pest in mid to late summer, they cause damage to trees by weakening and girdling branches while producing sticky 'honeydew' on leaves and targets below.

## Biology

### Life Cycle

- Females produce eggs from mid-summer to fall.
- Eggs hatch August through October (2155-2800 GDD).
- The young scale – known as crawlers – move to one- to two-year-old branches where they feed, grow a protective shell, and overwinter.
- Feeding resumes as leaves emerge the following spring, producing a large amount of honeydew.
- As summer approaches, the females lay eggs and then die, leaving behind their hollow brown shell that persists on the plant for months. Magnolia scales produce one generation each year.

## Distribution

Found throughout the United States, highest occurrence corresponding to range of Magnolia species



Adult Magnolia scale on branch.



Sooty mold growing on honeydew.

## Susceptible Hosts

- Star Magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*),
- Saucer Magnolia (*Magnolia soulangeana*),
- Cucumbertree Magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*)
- Lily Magnolia (*Magnolia liliiflora*).

It has also been reported that magnolia scale feeds on:

- Daphne spp.
- Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*),
- Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*).



## Symptoms

- Sticky honeydew on leaves and targets underneath the infested tree.
- Dwarfed or stunted growth on infested twigs.
- Branch decline on severely infested twigs.
- Newly hatched crawlers are a medium brown color, getting darker after feeding commences. Crawlers are present in late summer/early fall.
- Presence of large, oval shaped dark brown insects on twigs and branches, often in high population numbers in late spring/early summer.

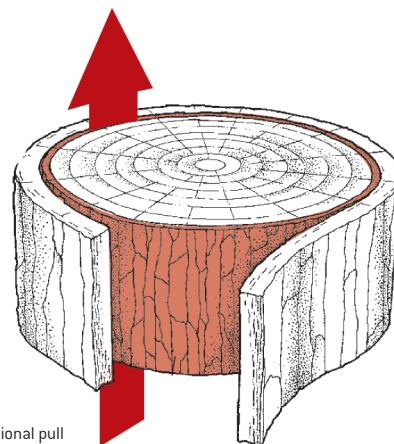
# TREATMENT: Magnolia Scale

# Transtect™

## Management Strategy Summary

Magnolia scale can be a challenging soft scale to control. Reports from arborists and university scientists have yielded inconsistent control from both crawler sprays and soil applied systemic treatments. The magnolia scales non-synchronized (crawlers hatch and settle for a prolonged period of time in late summer/early fall) life cycle makes timing of spray products operationally challenging.

Transtect can be applied during leaf emergence in early spring of the current year to kill overwintered crawlers. Proper timing and a combination of sprays and soil applied treatments may be required in the first year of treatment to get high pest infestations under control. Additional foliar sprays that target crawler emergence in late fall can also aid in suppression. For severe infestations, dormant oil sprays can be applied in the fall to catch anything previous applications missed before the insects over winter and continue feeding in the spring.



The tree's transpirational pull moves the Transtect from the soil/bark up into the canopy

## Management Options

**Products:** Transtect (soil injection/bark spray), Distance (foliar spray), Horticultural Oil (dormant spray)

**Timing:** Treatments with Transtect will usually occur around early spring-summer with crawler sprays in August, and hort oil sprays in the fall.

Depending on the severity of the issue, all or some of these treatment recommendations may be recommended.



Treatment of trees with Transtect is done via soil injection or bark spray

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