



Understand and Manage Japanese Maple Scale

Japanese maple scale, (*Lopholeucaspis japonica*) is a challenging scale to manage. In the United States, it was first found on the east coast, but since then it has rapidly expanded its range. Japanese maple scale's small size, ability to blend in, and long crawler emergence period make it difficult to control. It is a pest primarily of nurseries and is often found on hollies. Hollies' tight shrub-like habit make spray treatments difficult to accomplish properly.

Biology

- Eggs are laid in April/May.
- Two overlapping generations. Crawlers emerge in May/August.
- First generation emerge as smoke bush blooms or oak leaf hydrangea blooms, 2nd generation emerge when Arailia spinosa is in flower bud swell.
- First generation crawler begin to emerge at 816 GDD (Growing Degree Days) and peak at 1143 GDD (emerge over an 8 week period).
- Second generation begin to emerge at 2500 GDD and peak at 3022 GDD (emerge over a 7 week period).
- Within hours of emergence, crawlers settle down and create covers.
- Overwinter as 2nd instars.

Distribution

The first U.S. detection of Japanese maple scale was in CT in 1914 and it has since been reported in Washington DC, DE, GA, MD, NJ, NY, PA, RI and more recently NC and LA.



Photo Credit: Bugwood.org

Susceptible Hosts

Acer, Amelanchier, Camellia, Carpinus, Cercis, Cladrastis, Cornus, Cotoneaster, Euonymus, Fraxinus, Gleditsia, Ilex, Itea, Ligustrum, Magnolia, Malus, Prunus, Pyracantha, Pyrus, Salix, Stewartia, Styrax, Syringa, Tilia, Ulmus, Zelkova, and others.



Photo Credit: University of Maryland

Diagnosis

- Branch dieback.
- Waxy scales are about 1 mm in length.
- Dark scale cover can be seen when wax is rubbed off, or if oil is applied.
- Immature covering and eggs are purplish.

TREATMENT:

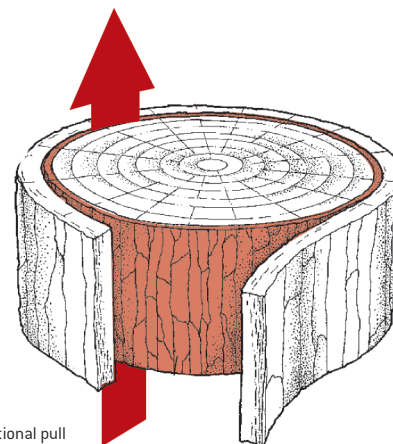
Japanese Maple Scale

Transtect™

Management Strategy Summary

This is a difficult scale to control for multiple reasons. First, its crawler emergence occurs over a period of several months. This means that applications made before the crawler has emerged are not effective. Second, crawlers begin secreting their waxy coating within three days of hatching. This is a very small window for treatment. Third, the scale is very small and can blend in with bark very easily, making scouting difficult. Hort. Oil + Distance is an industry standard, although Transtect as a foliar application, soil application, or lower systemic bark spray application have also been shown to be effective.

Transtect can be applied just before or during crawler emergence in the spring of the year. 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.



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

Management Options

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

Timing: Treatments with Transtect will usually occur around early spring-summer at 816-3500 Growing Degree Days.

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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