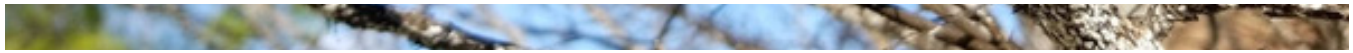




Understand and Manage

CRAPE MYRTLE BARK SCALE



Crape myrtle bark scale (*Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae*) (CMBS) is an invasive felt scale in the family Eriococcidae. CMBS was first detected in the United States in Texas in 2004 and has since spread throughout many southern states. CMBS feeds within the phloem of trees, creating copious amounts of honeydew, and reducing flower blooms. Sooty mold which presents itself as dark brownish to black fungal growth on hardscapes is often unsightly and challenging to clean.



Biology

- 2-3 overlapping generations per year, with new generation every 3.5 to 4 months.
- Overwinter mostly as nymphs, but also as adults.
- Females lay 100-300 eggs beneath waxy thread like covering.
- Nymphs develop through 3 stages. They begin as pink but turn darker pink, grey, and brown as they mature.
- 1st instars (crawlers) are mobile and travel to new feeding sites.
- After 1st molt nymphs settle, lose their legs, and continue to feed and grow.
- Adult females continue as immobile, but males continue a complete metamorphosis and emerge as small winged insects.

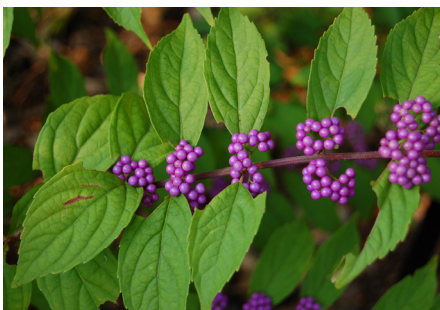
Symptoms

- Sticky honeydew on leaves and targets underneath the infested tree
- Dwarfed and or stunted growth of infested stems and twigs
- Decline of branches when severely infested and or when pruned aggressively.
- Adult females present as white oval shaped fuzzy scales on the woody tissues.
- Nymphs are about 1/16th of an inch in length and are light grey but do not have a white fuzzy outer covering

Susceptible Trees



Crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia spp*)



American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)

Diagnosis

- Feeding creates copious amounts of honey dew, sooty mold, and reduced blooms on crape myrtles
- Populations build up quickly, adults and nymphs covered in white waxy threads will be evident.

Distribution

Crape myrtle bark scale is commonly found along the Gulf Coast and US Southeast.

MANAGING CRAPE MYRTLE BARK SCALE

Because all life stages are present throughout the growing season multiple foliar applications throughout the growing season may be prudent. Research data shows there are peak crawlers present in spring and summer, recommendations for foliar applications are to treat just before these times. Systemic treatments of Xytect or Transtect are very effective and would be the preferred method of treatment

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Products:

Transtect™ (Soil application or Bark Spray), RTSA Hort Oil™ (Foliar Spray), and Distance™ (Foliar Spray)

Timing:

Treatments with Transtect will usually occur in the early spring through early fall as the crawlers emerge. Applications of Xytect™ 2F/WSP should be made in the early spring for late season control. Foliar sprays should occur as crawlers emerge, and may be repeated on a 4 week interval as needed.



817-228-1012

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