

Problem: Euonymus Scale - *Unaspis euonymi*



Hosts: Euonymus, camellia, boxwood, bitter-sweet, daphne, eugenia, English ivy, hibiscus, holly, jasmine, privet, honeysuckle, olive, pachysandra and stonefruits (*Prunus* sp.) are reported hosts of this scale.

Description: Heavy infestations are clearly visible from some distance away. Affected foliage appears to have small white cottony spots. Leaves eventually turn yellow and die as feeding continues. Males are white and elongated and females are brown and oval shaped and about 1/16-inch long. Large numbers congregate on the undersides of leaves, twigs, and stems. About 60 days are required to complete a generation. There may be several generations per year.

In the spring, overwintering females lay eggs that hatch in late May or early June. This period usually occurs when fringetrees, (*Chionanthus*), cockspur hawthorn (*Crataegus crusgalli*), Beautybush (*Kolkwitzia*) and Late Lilac (*Syringa villosa*) are in bloom. Crawlers move to leaves and stem and begin to feed by sucking plant juices. Maturing males prefer leaves and females congregate on stems.

Recommendations:

Prune heavily infested branches to the soil surface. A dormant spray in early spring before the buds have started to open will decrease the scale population but also may defoliate the plant. New leaves will rapidly replace those lost. Apply labeled insecticides such as carbaryl (Sevin), acephate (Orthene, Bonide Systemic Insect Control), permethrin (Hi-Yield 38 Plus Turf Termite and Ornamental Insect Control, Hi-Yield Indoor/Outdoor Broad Use Insecticide and Garden & Farm Insect Killer) or cyhalothrin (Spectracide Triazicide, Bonide Garden & Home RTU) to control crawlers in late May or early June (when Catalpa trees are in early bloom). Reapply as needed to control later generations. Spraying when crawlers are not present is ineffective.

Double-sided tape or electrical tape smeared with petroleum jelly can be used to capture crawlers making them more easily seen. Use a magnifying lens to identify the very small, yellow crawlers. If nothing is moving, crawlers are not active yet.

Control is likely impossible for *Euonymus* that has been heavily attacked and is in very poor health. Therefore, complete removal and destruction of the infested plants (including roots) is suggested.

References:

1. [Euonymus Scale](#), Entfact-428, UK Entomology, University of Kentucky
2. Life Histories of Common Insects, Mites and Nematodes Infesting Ornamental Plants in Missouri, Missouri Department of Agriculture, pg D-13
3. [Euonymus Scale](#), Hortanswers, University of Illinois

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