

## PRESCRIPTION PROGRAMS

# SCALE INSECTS



### Description

There are two groups of scales that are a concern on ornamentals: **Armored scales** and **Soft scales**.

Armored scales are the most common scale found on trees and shrubs. The females are small, soft bodied and are concealed under a scale covering that is formed of wax, secreted by the insect. They vary in length and body shapes vary with species.

Soft scales are flattened, elongate and oval, that can be exposed or enclosed in a waxy or cotton-like secretion.

### Damage

Scales suck the sap from leaves during the summer and from twigs during the spring of the following year. The young scales collectively produce a great quantity of the clear, sweet liquid known as honeydew. This serves as a medium for fungus growth and gives the leaves and fruits a smutty appearance. They can cause fruit to be undersized and drop prematurely.

### Management

#### Non-Chemical

In some cases, cultural practices such as proper pruning of heavily infested branches is the only option to reduce threshold levels. There are several species of wasp parasitoids, mite predator, and of lady beetles that feed on armored scale and soft scale insects. The use of short residual insecticides will conserve these natural enemies.

#### Chemical

The use of insecticides is often the only effective means of controlling a scale infestation. We use a number of registered formulations of insecticides that are available for scale control. All of are sprays are timed by our trained staff according to your property to achieve the best results.

**Contact Insecticides.** Is the most effective way to control scale populations when they are in the crawler stages.

**Soft Pesticides.** Horticultural oils seem to provide good control during the dormant season.

