

VINELAND

TREE CARE

Magnolia Scale

Neolecanium cornuparvum, Thro

HOSTS: Magnolia (*Magnolia* spp.)



CO-OCCURRING ISSUES / LOOK-ALIKES: Honeydew/Sooty Mold

LIFE CYCLE:

- Overwinters as dark gray nymphs with a red-brown median ridge on older twigs.
- Nymphs mature by July/ August, with mating taking place not long after. Females give birth to live young/ nymphs called crawlers that wander around for a short period before finding a place to settle down.
- Nymphs feed by sucking sap out of twigs, and produce copious amounts of honeydew which can cause sooty mold and attracts a variety of other insects.
- Heavy infestations can result in late bud-break, diminished leaf and flower size, poor leaf color and turgor, and eventual branch death.

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CONTROL:

Chemical -

- Two dormant season applications of horticultural oil should be used (one in fall, one in early spring) to target nymphs.
- Dinotefuran should be applied after blooming, as it moves into the tree faster than imidacloprid.
- The crawler stage (2155-2800 GDD) should be targeted with a permethrin spray.

Cultural -

- Physically removing scale insects will greatly reduce feeding damage and honeydew production. Gloves, old toothbrushes, and slightly soapy water work best.

RESULTS/PROGNOSIS/EXPECTATION MANAGEMENT:

- Controlling magnolia scale can be challenging if not started immediately. Once large infestations get established it can take years for plants to visibly improve.
- Best practice would involve a combination of chemical and cultural controls, both for population knock-down and to improve aesthetic quality and reduce honeydew-related issues.