

# European Elm Scale

Scientific Name: *Gossyparia spuria*

## Host Elm

**Damage/symptoms:** The scale extracts fluids from the phloem of the tree, causing premature yellowing of leaves, especially on the lower branches. Heavy infestations can cause twig drop. The scale excretes excessive amounts of honeydew as a waste product, and black sooty mold can develop on this honeydew.



Figure 1. European elm scale adult. J. Berger, Bugwood #5402456



Figure 2. European elm scale on bark. W. Cranshaw, CSU, Bugwood #5303021

**Life cycle:** The scale overwinters as a nymph at the base of buds in cracks of bark or twigs. At the end of June/early July, the female lays eggs that hatch into bright yellow active crawlers within several days. The crawlers will reside within grooves along the midrib and prominent veins on leaf undersides. The scale remains immobile at these sites for the remainder of the summer. There is one generation per year.

**Management:** The scale can be controlled prior to bud break with dormant oils. It can also be controlled during the crawler stage with a contact insecticide. Systemic insecticides with the active ingredients imidacloprid or dinotefuran can be used in the spring following leaf expansion. Resistance to systemic insecticides with the active ingredient imidacloprid has occurred with this scale insect.

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