

Oystershell Scale

Scientific Name: *Lepidosaphes ulmi*

Hosts: Aspen, ash, cotoneaster, willow, lilac

Damage/symptoms: Branch dieback can occur with heavy infestations.



Figure 2. Oystershell scale infestation on the trunk of an aspen tree. W. Ciesla, FHMI, Bugwood.

Management: In small numbers, oystershell scale rarely affects plant health. The scale is typically controlled by natural enemies later in the season. If practical, scrub the branches lightly with a plastic brush. If chemical control is necessary, apply a dormant oil before bud break. Monitor for the crawler stage and follow up with a contact spray if populations are heavy.



Figure 1. Oystershell scale adult and eggs. W. Cranshaw, Bugwood.

Life cycle: Eggs hatch around mid-late May. The crawlers then feed, settle, mate, and produce an armored shell on branches for overwintering. The female produces eggs and remains protected underneath the shell throughout the winter.



Figure 3. Oystershell scale eggs. W. Cranshaw, CSU, Bugwood.

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