



HORTICULTURAL PESTS OF REGULATORY CONCERN

Japanese Maple Scale

Name: *Lopholeucaspis japonica* (Cockerell), 1897.

Location: New Jersey (Statewide)

On: *Acer*, *Castanea*, *Chaenomeles*, *Cornus*,
Cotoneaster, *Cydonia*, *Diospyros*, *Euonymus*,
Ilex, *Koelreuteria*, *Ligustrum*, *Magnolia*, *Malus*,
Paulownia, *Prunus*, *Pyracantha*, *Pyrus*, *Rosa*,
Styrax, *Syringa*, *Ulmus*, *Wisteria*, *Zelkova*.

Order: Hemiptera

Family: Diaspididae

Japanese maple scale has become one of the most economically significant plant pests in New Jersey, especially where pesticide treatments are not timed properly. Plants infested with Japanese maple scale have a much reduced vigor, twig dieback, and stunted growth. Younger limbs of weakened host plants are often killed. Under close examination, female Japanese maple scales are < 3mm in length and usually gray with brown margins. Beneath the scale cover, the exposed adult females and eggs are purple.



Figure 1. Japanese maple scale infestation on *Cornus* sp.

Japanese maple scale overwinters either as a partly grown female nymph or as fully mature females. Nymphs resume feeding, develop and lay eggs in spring. The first generation crawlers emerge in New Jersey by early summer (500-1600 DDB50)¹. They feed until mid-summer, mate, and lay eggs before the end of summer. There is usually a second generation of crawlers present by late summer or early fall (2000-3000 DDB50)¹.



Figure 2. Japanese maple scale colony on *Carpinus* sp.

2nd generation nymphs begin feeding, partly develop and ready themselves to overwinter. Scouting for Japanese maple scale activity should begin in early spring, inspecting overwintering scale covers for viable eggs.



Figure 3. Overwintering mature female *L. japonica*.

Although Japanese maple scale is difficult to control it can be affected by various contact insecticides so long as the early crawling stage (preferably the first instar) is targeted.

¹ M. Kosztarab, Scale Insects of Northeastern North America, Identification, Biology, and Distribution, VA Museum of Natural History, Martinsville, VA. 1996.