



HORTICULTURAL PESTS OF REGULATORY CONCERN

Cottony taxus (camellia) scale

Name: *Chloropulvinaria floccifera* (Westwood)
Observed: Southern New Jersey
On: *Taxus* spp., *Camellia* spp., *Ilex* spp.
Order: Hemiptera
Family: Coccidae

Cottony camellia scale; *Chloropulvinaria floccifera* (Westwood) infestations are being routinely encountered during annual nursery inspections. The most common hosts have been *Taxus* spp. and *Ilex* spp. This scale has shown an apparent preference for older plants. Determining the extent of these infestations has been challenging since the white-flocculant egg masses occur on the undersides of the foliage and are most numerous near the base of older plants. The females overwinter as nymphs. They mature to 1/8 inch in length in early spring, are oval and tan in color. Egg masses are 1/2 inch long and are present beginning in May. Crawlers emerge in New Jersey during June; 802-1265 GGDB50 (Kosztarab, 1996) and begin feeding on the underside of the host foliage. As the crawlers feed they excrete honeydew onto the host. As a result, sooty mold often develops and the foliage turns dark green or black.



Figure 1. *C. floccifera* 1st & 2nd instar crawlers on *Taxus* sp.

Light infestations may go unnoticed. Infestations are often first identified by the blackened and discolored lower foliage of the host plant. Horticultural oil can be used to control overwintering crawlers however it is

imperative that the oil contact the insects settled beneath the foliage. Significant infestations can be treated with various pesticides when the crawlers emerge, beginning in June through August and again as they mature in early spring.



Figure 2. *C. floccifera* adult female and egg mass on *Ilex* sp.

Host plant material being introduced to New Jersey nurseries from unknown sources should be inspected for *C. floccifera*, segregated from preexisting host material and monitored through late spring into summer for the presence of egg masses or development of sooty mold.



Figure 3. Sooty mold and *C. floccifera* adults on *Taxus* sp.