University of Nebraska - Lincoln
DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension

Extension

1-1959

EC58-1587 Entomology : Control Oyster-Shell Scale

Bob Roselle
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, rroselle1@unl.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist

Roselle, Bob, "EC58-1587 Entomology : Control Oyster-Shell Scale" (1959). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 3425.
http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist/3425

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Extension at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

AGRI
S
85
E7
#58-1587

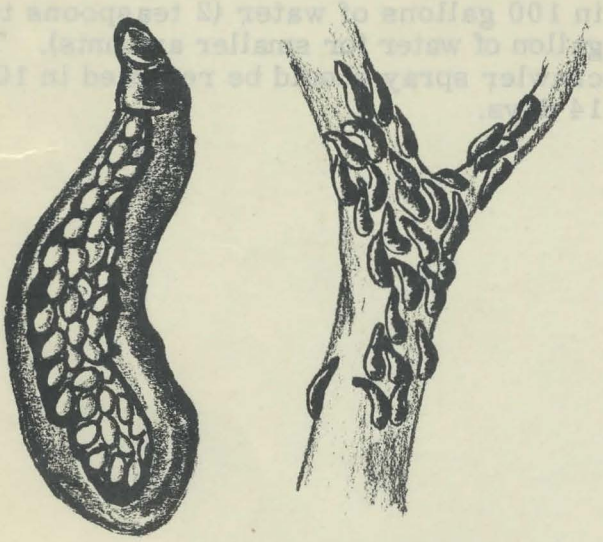
JANUARY 1959 E.C. 58-1587

entomology

CONTROL OYSTER-SHELL SCALE

By BOB ROSELLE Extension Entomologist

EC 58-1587



oyster-shell scale

DESCRIPTION

Oyster-shell scales are large scales, easily detected with the naked eye. Female scales are about 1/8 inch long and about 1/16 inch wide. They are broadened at one end and usually curved. If crowded the scales may be straight. They are usually grey or brown in color, and resemble the bark of infested plants. The scales are shaped like oysters, therefore the common name. Male scales are much smaller and usually escape notice.

HOST PLANTS

Many kinds of shade trees, shrubs, and perennial plants are infested. The oyster shell scale is probably the most important insect pest of lilacs in Nebraska. Other host plants include most kinds of ash, poplar, willow, elm, linden, rose, birch, boxelder, soft maple, cotoneaster, peonies, clematis, honeysuckle, locust, spirea, sycamore, viburnum, and many others.

LIFE HISTORY

The winter is passed in the egg stage, each female laying 50 to 60 oval, whitish egg under the old scale. Overwintering eggs usually hatch in late May or early June into yellowish white mite-like crawlers. The crawlers are barely visible with the naked eye. They crawl over the host for a few hours then insert their thread-like beaks into the bark and begin sucking sap. After feeding starts they grow rapidly, secreting the wax-like material which form the scales. The females remain under the scales for the rest of their lives. There is one generation each year.

INJURY

Branches of heavily infested plants appear unthrifty, and eventually may die. Leaves, especially of lilacs, may be small, wilting, and yellowish, and the growth of stems retarded. Close examination may reveal that the surface of stems and branches is completely covered with scales. Injury is caused by sucking of sap.

(over)

EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COOPERATING
W.V. LAMBERT, DIRECTOR

CONTROL

Control is often difficult, and more than one season may be required for complete control. Heavily infested, and dead or dying stems should be pruned out and burned. Dormant oil and summer crawler sprays are recommended. Both should be used until infestations are brought under control.

Dormant oil sprays should be applied in March before leaf buds begin to swell. Apply when temperatures will be 40 degrees or higher until the spray has time to dry. To prepare a dormant oil spray add 3 gallons of a miscible oil to 100 gallons of water (8 tablespoons to 1 gallon of water for smaller amounts) and apply with a hydraulic or compressed air sprayer until all stems are thoroughly covered. Miscible oil sprays may be purchased under several trade names.

Malathion sprays should be applied just after the eggs hatch. The exact time to apply can be determined by examining infested plants every three or four days in late May and early June for the presence of crawlers. When they are first noticed, make an application of malathion at the rate of 1 quart of 57% emulsifiable concentrate in 100 gallons of water (2 teaspoons to 1 gallon of water for smaller amounts). The crawler spray should be repeated in 10 to 14 days.