

Euonymus Scale



Hi-Yield

ferti-lome Info Sheet

ferti-lome

Euonymus Scale is part of a group of insects referred to as armored scale, that can completely encrust twigs and leaves (see images) of Euonymus, Pachysandra and Bittersweet. They use piercing-sucking mouthparts to feed on sap.

Mated female scale overwinter primarily on plant stems and appear as grayish-brown, pear-shaped spots (see image below ↘). Males appear as narrow, white waxy spots (same image). In general, males tend to locate on leaves along the veins, (see top image) and females will populate the stems.

Eggs hatch and develop under the scale. Then during a two to three week period they will hatch as "crawlers" (see bottom image ↘) and migrate along the stems to start feeding near the base of the plant. At this point the crawlers can be blown on air currents to adjacent plants, infecting them as well. Crawlers become adults in 4 to 6 weeks, which will lead to 3 or more generations per year.

Plants with mild infestation will grow slower and show yellow spots on the leaves. Plants with heavy infestation will not grow at all and will experience dieback and eventually death. Plants near a protected location such as a foundation or fence, may experience heavier infestation than plants in a more open location.

Control

The first step in controlling Euonymus Scale is dormant applications. An application in the late fall or late winter with *HY Dormant Oil* or *FL Horticultural Oil* can help reduce some of the overwintering females through suffocation. For this to work, very thorough coverage is required, if the infestation is heavy, two applications may be helpful.

The next control is to go after the crawler stage. The crawlers are susceptible to many insecticides, so many choices are effective. Monitor the stems in the late spring and begin making applications when the crawlers are present. Repeat applications are required so plan to make at least three applications, 7 to 10 days apart.

Both *FL Horticultural Oil* or *FL Triple Action* are good choices when going after crawlers, apply in the early morning or late evening.

The next best choice would be the *HY Bifenthrin 2.4*, this is hard chemistry and is very effective. Avoid application during the heat of the day and make sure to cover the stems to the ground.

Two very effective products that happen to be natural and are very effective are *NG Insecticidal Soap* and *NG Spinosad Soap*. These are contact controls so thorough coverage is required.

University studies have shown that Imidacloprid is NOT effective on Euonymus Scale.

