

Problem: Pine Tortoise Scale, *Toumeyella parvicornis*



Pine Tortoise Scale (*Toumeyella parvicornis*) (Cricken@)
Photo By: Kansas Department of Agriculture, 9/1/2014 ImageID: 17016
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Host Plants: Pine trees including Scots, Austrian and red

Description: This insect overwinters on twigs as fertilized, immature females which are round and wrinkled. Eggs are borne under the female and hatch from May through June. The reddish crawlers find a place to feed either by crawling, by using birds as a means of transport or by catching wind currents. Males fly to females, mate and then die. The males do not feed.

Symptoms of an infestation include yellowed and stunted needles. Foliage closer to the ground is more likely to support high populations than those higher in the tree canopy. Severe infestations may kill the tree with younger pines being more easily damaged. This scale also produces larger amounts of honeydew. Honeydew comes from sap that is ingested by the scale and passed through and out the body of the insect. Branches coated with honeydew will often produce black sooty mold which uses the honeydew as a food source. Sooty mold does not harm the tree.

Recommendations: Start looking for crawlers during the latter half of May. A high pressure spray of water can dislodge crawlers and mature females. Try spraying twice a week until the scale is controlled. Insecticides for crawlers such as one of the following can also be used to suppress populations.

Acephate (Orthene, Bonide Systemic Insect control)

Acetamiprid (TriStar)

Bifenthrin (Talstar, Hi-Yield Bug Blaster Bifenthrin)

Cyfluthrin (Tempo)

Dinotefuran (Safari)

Imidacloprid (Merit, BioAdvanced 12 Month Tree & Shrub Insect Control, Bonide Annual Tree and Shrub Insect Control, Fertilome Tree & Shrub Systemic Insect Granules)

Insecticidal soaps and horticultural oils can also be used.

References:

1. [Pine Tortoise Scale](#), Kansas State University, Extension Entomology

2. [Pine Tortoise Scale](#), USDA Forest Insect & Disease Leaflet 57

Last Update: 11/13/2023

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