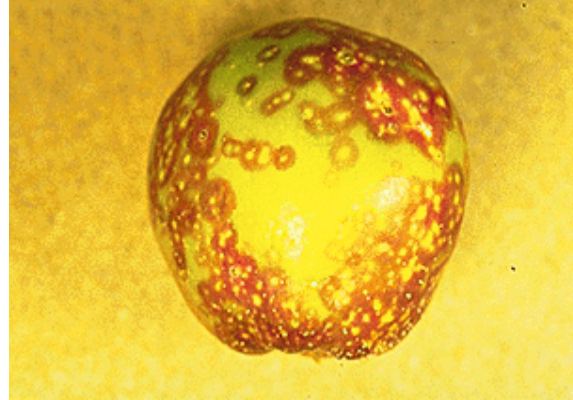


**Problem:** San Jose Scale - *Quadraspidiotus perniciosus*



**Hosts:** Though over 60 plants serve as hosts of San Jose scale, apple, peach, pear, pyracantha, quince and cotoneaster are most susceptible.

**Description:** Scale insects feed on plants by inserting their stylets into leafy or woody tissues and continually withdrawing plant juices. San Jose Scale feeds on the fruit, foliage and bark of its host.

Female scales are flat, circular and grayish with a darker nipple-like formation arising from their center. Males are smaller and somewhat elongated. Both males and females overwinter as immatures. Scales become sexually mature and mate in the spring. Females give live birth to first generation crawlers in late June. Crawlers are yellow, flat and quite small. There are two or more generations per year.

**Recommendations:** Oils can be used as dormant treatments in the spring. Heavy infestations may need to be followed up with insecticides such as pyriproxyfen (Distance, Esteem). Pyriproxyfen is an insect growth regulator that disrupts the growth and development and disturbs egg-laying, egg-hatch and prevents young insects from reaching the adult stage. It has low toxicity to humans and mammals. Conventional insecticides such as permethrin (Bayer Vegetable & Garden Insect Dust, Bonide Eight Vegetable, Fruit & Flower Concentrate, Hi-Yield Lawn, Garden, Pet & Livestock Inset Spray) can also be used. Target the crawler stage.

**References:**

1. [San Jose Scale](#), University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture Entfact-204
2. Life Histories of Common Insects, Mites and Nematodes Infesting Ornamental Plants in Missouri, Missouri Department of Agriculture, pg D-23

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