

HOME GROUNDS FACT SHEET

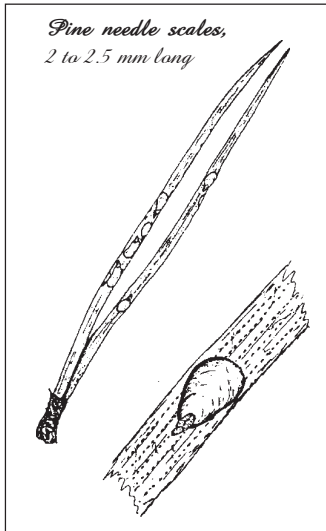


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Pine Needle Scale



This small, white, elongated-to-pear-shaped armored scale infests the foliage of many species of pines and some spruces. It is usually most abundant and injurious on Mugo and Austrian pines, although it is also found on white, red and Scotch pine. Heavily infested foliage becomes pale and unthrifty and the trees are stunted and seriously weakened. They are very susceptible to attack by bark beetles

and borers. Whitish-looking pine trees (the white being on the needles) are almost always due to pine needle scale.

Scale overwinters as purplish-red eggs beneath the old scale cover. The upstate New York eggs hatch at the beginning of June and there appears to be only one generation a year. On Long Island there are often two generations a year. The hatching of the first brood starts about the middle of May.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Considerations

IPM is a common sense approach to pest control and plant care. It employs a number of measures to prevent, control or reduce plant problems. These include using resistant plant varieties, proper plant selection and placement, good aftercare and biological and/or mechanical controls.

As a last resort, after all other remedies have been explored, a pesticide* that is least toxic to people and natural predators, can be considered. Prior to using any pesticides, plants should always be monitored for the degree of infestation and a sensible control measure considered.

* A pesticide is a substance that kills, or attempts to kill, a particular pest, e.g. **insecticide**, **fungicide**, **herbicide**, etc.

Control

To control the egg stage of this pest, use horticultural oil before bud break in April when the pussywillow blooms. Apply on a warm sunny morning (at temperatures above 40°F) so the oil can dry.

Summer Spray

Chemical pesticides may be available. If you choose to use a chemical pesticide, contact your local Cooperative Extension office for specific recommendations. To control the crawler stage spray as soon as all eggs have hatched (at the end of May, 298-448 GDD*) when the redbud blooms. A second spray can be applied at 1290-1917 GDD* when *Abelia* and butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*) bloom.

Do not use a hose-end sprayer!

Hose-end sprayers do not dissolve, mix or apply pesticides accurately or evenly. The changing rates of water pressure, different hose diameters and water temperature provide variables that prevent accurate mixing and delivery. A hand-pump or powered tank sprayer, where the pesticide is pre-mixed to the proper dilution, allows for the application of a known mixture as per label instructions.

*GDD - Growing Degree Days - explained in Home Grounds Fact Sheet E-1-0.

WHENEVER YOU USE A PESTICIDE,
ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND FOLLOW
THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

"This publication contains pesticide recommendations. Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly and human errors are still possible. Some materials mentioned may no longer be available, and some uses may no longer be legal. All pesticides distributed, sold or applied in New York State must be registered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Questions concerning the legality and/or registration status for pesticide use in New York State should be directed to the appropriate Cornell Cooperative Extension specialist or your regional DEC office (631) 444-0341. Read the label before applying any pesticide. Cornell Cooperative Extension and its employees assume no liability for the effectiveness or results of any chemicals for pesticide usage. No endorsement of products is made or implied."

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