

Scale Insects A Hard to Recognize Danger

Scale insects can be serious pests on all types of fruit and ornamental trees and also shrubs. Scales are so unusual looking that most people don't recognize them as insects. Most adult scales do not move, they look like brown or white "tortoise shells" on branches or foliage. Some are covered with a white waxy substance. Scales have piercing mouthparts that suck juices out of the plant. Severe infestations of scale can cause overall decline or even death of the plant. Most scales excrete sticky honey dew that can drip down onto cars and buildings and make a gummy mess. Often this honeydew is attacked by a black sooty mold.

Some scales have only one generation per year and others can have multiple generations. Typically scales over winter as an adult scale. Then in late spring eggs are produced hidden under the mother scale. The eggs hatch in late spring and early summer into tiny microscopic crawlers. These crawlers walk over plant surfaces, get blown by wind to new trees or moved by birds.

Scales are often kept in check by natural enemies like parasitic wasps. However scale populations can sometimes get out of control and cause plant damage or be a nuisance with sticky honeydew. Well timed sprays of oil during the dormant season and when crawlers are active should provide good control.

(Above Right) Cottony maple scale may be found on currants, gooseberry, grapes as well as maples

(At Right) Azalea bark scale shown on an azalea also may be found on rhododendrons



Photos: Lyle Feilmeier

We're Here to Help

Collier Arbor Care is here to assist you with your tree, shrub and lawn care needs. If you would like more information on any of our services listed below, please give us a call or visit our website for valuable plant information.

Plant Health Care Programs
Targeted Insect & Disease Treatments
Pruning & Removals
Fertilization & Soil Treatments

Organic-based Lawn Care
Hazard Tree Analysis
Tree Planting
Consulting & Diagnosis

503-722-7267 (503-72ARBOR)
www.collierarbor.com

Garden Calendar

See our website at www.collierarbor.com for a 12 month calendar!

October

- Recycle disease-free plant material and kitchen vegetable scraps into compost.
- Good time to plant new trees* and shrubs or transplant existing ones.
- Apply preventative weed control in landscape beds, pull or treat existing weeds.*
- Take care of soil drainage needs of lawns and landscape before rain begins.
- Treat stone fruit trees to prevent various fungus and bacterial diseases.*
- Clean and oil tools and equipment before storing for winter.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs like crocus, daffodils and tulips.

November

- Apply lime to lawns.*
- Treat roots of trees and shrubs with beneficial mycorrhizae fungus to increase rooting, nutrient uptake, and help protect from certain root diseases.*
- Plan erosion control; use mulches, fir boughs, etc., to prevent compaction from rain and from soil washing.
- Rake and compost leaves that are free of diseases or insects.
- Provide winter protection to built-in sprinkler systems; drain the system, insulate the valve mechanisms.
- Reduce fertilizer applications to houseplants.
- Prepare lawnmower, other garden equipment for winter storage. Drain and store hoses carefully to avoid damage from freezing.

December

- Cut holly for holiday decorations.
- Make holiday decorations from trees and shrubs in the yard.
- Tie limbs of columnar evergreens to prevent snow breakage.
- Subsurface fertilize ornamental trees and shrubs to enhance spring growth and health.*

January

- Prune trees by removing dead wood and trimming to reduce hazards.*
- Plant bare-root deciduous fruit and shade trees.
- Have a soil test performed on your garden, lawn or landscape soil. If soil ph is below 5.5 (very acidic) then you need to add large amounts of lime to raise the ph to an optimum 6.0 to 6.5.*
- Treat with dormant sprays of lime sulfur or copper for general disease control of fruit trees, peaches for leaf curl and roses.*
- Prune fruit trees. Thin suckers, remove deadwood and increase light penetration.*
- Plan now for garden improvements. Order seeds for planting vegetables and flowers.

* Services performed by Collier Arbor Care

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Featured Tree:

Parrotia (*Parrotia persica*)



Ever imagine having all the breath-taking colors of fall, including red, orange, yellow, scarlet and purple in your landscape? How about having all that color being displayed by one tree? The Parrotia is that tree known for its spectacular show of color in the fall.

Introduced to the United States in the mid 1800's from the Middle East, the Parrotia has had a slow start being planted in the American landscape. The Parrotia is a medium sized tree growing to heights of 20'- 40' with a canopy spread of 15'- 30'. The trunk can be single or multi-stemmed. The leaves are oval to oblong and 2"- 4" long. The leaves of the Parrotia display an array of color through the 3 seasons from light green to purple in the spring, dark green in the summer and an explosion of color in the fall. Once the leaves are shed for winter, the bark of the Parrotia becomes the main attraction with multi-layered, exfoliating bark with its own display of colors.

The Parrotia is a low maintenance specimen tree with no real insect or disease issues and likes to be planted in well drained soil and full sun to semi-shaded locations in the landscape. The Parrotia will be the tree that gets all the attention in the fall.



Photos: Lyle Feilmeier

(Top) The unique bark of a mature Parrotia

(Middle) Beautiful green foliage of the Parrotia which provides a brilliant autumn show of red, orange, yellow, scarlet and purple

(Left) A mature Parrotia tree

New Killer: Seiridium Canker

This is a fairly new disease that has been infecting Incense cedar trees in our region. The disease has been causing a severe branch dieback. Severities of dieback vary from tree to tree, but upwards of 60% of branches are killed.

The fungus is mainly transmitted by wind blown spores on rain wetted branches and foliage. Drought stressed trees seem to be the most susceptible. The disease can infect many different kinds of trees like cedars and junipers but in our area it is mainly incense cedars.

Symptoms: Foliage on affected branches yellows and turns brown in the spring. Small branches are usually infected first, and then larger ones will die. A sunken canker can be found on the branch below the infected foliage. Bark turns brown, and small fruiting bodies form in the cankered area. Drops of resin are frequently found in and at the sides of the canker.

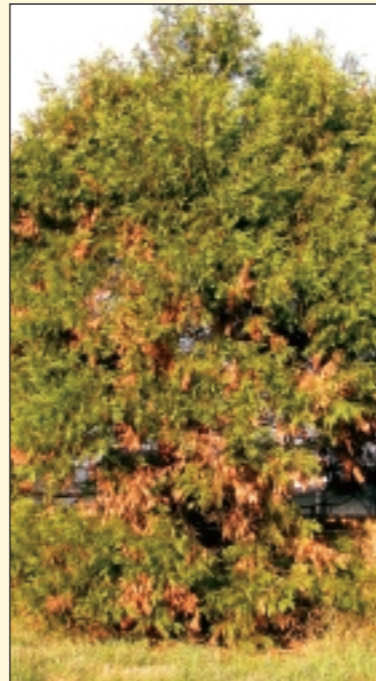
Control:

- Remove and destroy affected branches 1 – 2 feet below the infection or canker.
- Avoid water stress and wounding trees.
- Treat trees with a preventive fungicide when new growth begins to appear usually in March, April, and May and again in the fall.
- Call one of our certified arborists if you think your plants are suffering from this problem.

Photos: Lyle Feilmeier



(Left) A sunken canker on branches is a telltale sign of seiridium canker disease



(Right) Brown foliage on a Incense Cedar tree infected with seiridium canker

Oregon Ethics Award

Collier Arbor Care was a proud finalist for the **2004 Oregon Ethics in Business award** in the "Business" category. We work hard to earn your trust.

Hedge Plants: Alternatives to Arborvitae

One of the most common uses for shrubs is for hedges and screens. And the first plant that usually comes to mind is Arborvitae. Please think again! It is way over planted, ravaged by spider mites, dies from root rot, and can't grow in shade. Yes, we admit to having a plant prejudice, but when we see Arborvitae problems time and again we want to educate folks about better alternatives. So, yes there is a cure to the arborvitae curse.

Some questions you need to ask before selecting your perfect hedge are:

- What kind of sun or shade exposure does the area receive?
- How high do you want the hedge to grow?
- What are the soil conditions of the area?

With hedges, you need to be committed to regular maintenance, which means an annual shearing. We often get asked to bring a 20-foot tall arborvitae hedge back down to 10-feet. Unfortunately, such a dramatic pruning would destroy the hedge.



Photo: Terrell Collier

A Portugal Laurel hedge — better than an English Laurel hedge — can form a nice, natural border.

Most hedges are best maintained at 8-10 feet tall. This is the height that most people can easily and safely maintain their hedges and still get the desired screening. When shearing, remember to prune so the top is narrower than the base. This is to insure that all parts of the hedge receive sunlight. Otherwise the bottom becomes shaded and bare. For a healthy, manageable hedge, you should plan on a regular maintenance program of annual or even bi-annual shearing.

The following evergreen shrubs are amenable to shearing and thus make good 8-10 foot tall hedges:

- **Glossy Abelia:** glossy green leaves flowers
- **Escallonia:** glossy dark glossy green leaves, pink flowers
- **Canadian Hemlock:** lovely narrow needled hedge, susceptible to root rot
- **Chinese Holly:** glossy almost rectangular leaves, red berries.
- **Japanese Holly:** looks like boxwood, narrow green leaves, and black berries
- **Columnar Juniper:** various varieties, blue green foliage, can get mites and root rot
- **Portugal Laurel:** better than English, slower growing, darker leaf, white flowers
- **Osmanthus:** leathery attractive foliage, small white but fragrant flowers
- **Japanese Privet:** green oval leaves, white flowers widely used
- **Yew:** various varieties, tolerates shade, susceptible to root rot

Fall Recovery Program for Stressed Lawns

During the hot and sometimes dry summer months, our lawns suffer through weather-related stress factors that can cause damage ranging from leaf wilt to pre-mature dormancy. Weather conditions such as inadequate precipitation, high temperatures, and heavy foot traffic put a heavy burden on turf grasses ability to perform maintenance activities such as root production, nutrient storage and blade growth.

Lack of adequate soil moisture due to soil compaction and isolated dry spots can lead to scorched roots, turf thinning and an increased susceptibility to insect and disease problems.

A rapid turn around in turf health and vigor can be initiated with the application of balanced fertilizer and increased watering

to help stimulate root and blade growth while encouraging turf density.

A key factor in improving turf health is aeration. Core aeration loosens compacted soil, improves water and air movement through the rooting zone and provides spaces for new roots to grow.

Our summer turf recovery program of core aeration followed by fertilization including a mycorrhizae root stimulant treatment along with increased watering will help to begin the recovery process for your summer-stressed lawn. **Contact one of our staff members for more information.**

