

Crawlers of Two Cottony Scale Pests are Now Active

Eggs of **cottony camellia scale** and **cottony maple scale** have recently begun hatching, and the immature “crawlers” are now seeking places on the foliage to settle and feed. These closely related species each **produce a conspicuous, cottony egg mass**. Both species are classified as soft scales.



Cottony camellia scale adults and egg masses

Photo: Brian Kunkel, University of Delaware, Bugwood.org

Cottony Maple Scale

Cottony maple scale forms its **cottony egg masses primarily on small twigs and branches** of its hosts. Following egg hatch, **crawlers travel to the foliage** where they settle and feed throughout the summer and early fall. Before leaf drop, the immature scales migrate back to the twigs where they overwinter. In the spring, they become fully mature and produce their egg masses.

Hosts include **apple, beech, dogwood, hawthorn, maple, pear, poplar, Prunus**, and others.

Cottony maple scale is **easily confused with cottony maple leaf scale**. As the name suggests, cottony maple leaf scale spends its adult stage on the leaves, so the recognizable cottony masses are found on the leaves rather than the branches.

Always Read and Follow Label Directions for Safe Use of Any Pesticide!



Cottony Camellia Scale

Cottony camellia scale is also called cottony taxus scale as it is commonly found on **camellia and taxus as well as holly, rhododendron, euonymus, and several other hosts**.

The cottony egg masses produced by the adult females are found primarily on the **undersides of the leaves**. Newly hatched crawlers settle on the leaves as well.



Cottony maple scale on hawthorn

Photos: Sarah J. Vanek, University of Kentucky



Recently settled and active crawlers