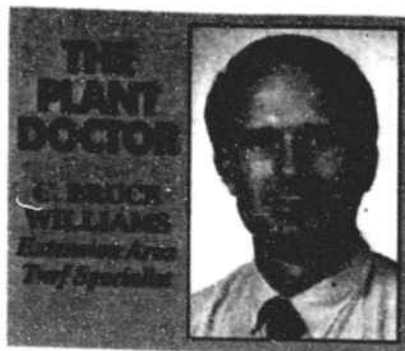


You Can Get Rid Of That Pesky Euonymus Scale

Dear Plant Doctor: For the past two summers we have been trying to figure out what has been causing the damage to our euonymus shrubs. The shrubs are kept at approximately 7 feet tall and are used as a border between properties. We believe they are 12 to 15 years old. We have taken leaf samples to a local greenhouse operator and have been told the problem was an insect and a fungus. We have taken leaf samples to a local greenhouse operator and have been told the problem was an insect and a fungus. We have sprayed insecticides and fungicides to correct the problem. Neither pesticide did any good.



in the nursery trade that will provide for excellent fall foliage and wonderful shade. In addition, red maples

are less susceptible to disease and insect problems.

Dear Plant Doctor: Help!

I have a vine, either honeysuckle or something similar, a large planting of shore juniper and pampas grass. I read your article mentioning Vantage and Grass-B-Gon for ornamentals. Would either be effective here? I surely do not want to kill the juniper.

So far I have been hand-applying Purge herbicide and cannot continue to keep this up. Thank you.

—Wilmington

ANSWER: No, neither Vantage

nor Grass-B-Gon will be effective for killing honeysuckle in juniper beds. These herbicides are only effective in killing grasses in juniper or other woody ornamental beds.

Do not continue to apply Purge to your juniper beds or severe plant injury can result. Purge is an excellent herbicide for St. Augustine and centipedegrass but can cause severe leaf yellowing and even death of many herbaceous or woody ornamental plants.

The best solution to killing honeysuckle in your shore juniper beds is to "paint" Roundup herbicide on

the leaves of the honeysuckle. Use an inexpensive, disposable foam paint brush to apply 1.5-percent or higher solution of Roundup (according to label instructions) to the leaves of the honeysuckle plant. Plants with lots of woody stems will require a higher rate of the product, and multiple applications may be necessary.

Be careful that the solution does not contact any other plants. Roundup will kill what it touches! This method also works well to control nearly all other types of undesirable woody plants (e.g. poison ivy,

sumac, greenbrier, etc.). Be sure to follow all label directions and precautions.

Send your gardening questions and comments to the Plant Doctor, P.O. Box 109, Bolivia NC 28422. Send a SASE if requesting a reply or information.

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Last week we trimmed the plant back to the bare branches hoping new life would develop.

Samples of the healthy and diseased leaves are enclosed. Please advise us.—Fayetteville

ANSWER: Oh lawdy... your plant has a severe case of *Unaspis euonymi*, the Euonymus Scale! This pesky insect scale will attach to just about any species of Euonymus in eastern North Carolina.

The male insects cluster on the underside of leaves and stems. They appear as small (less than 1/8 inch), cigar-shaped, and white cottony flecks. A severe infestation of Euonymus scale will often appear fungus-like to the untrained eye.

Female insects are dark brown and shaped like a miniature oyster shell. Females will be less plentiful on infested plants than males. These insects are difficult but not impossible to control.

The key to control is to open the plant canopy for better air circulation, light penetration and pesticide penetration. Euonymus scale is resistant to insecticides during some phases of its life cycle, therefore control can sometimes be frustrating. To control Euonymus scale, try the following:

1. Prune back your Euonymus plants in late February or early March.

2. Apply a dormant oil spray making sure all leaves, stems, and branches are totally treated. If dormant oil sprays are too messy, apply a lime sulfur spray (calcium polysulfide) between December 1 and March 1. (Plants must be dormant or leaf burn will result.)

3. Juvenile scale insects (crawlers) are very susceptible to insecticides like malathion and chlorpyrifos (Dursban) but adult females are not significantly affected by these products. Insecticides are most effective when crawlers are active during the spring and summer months. Three or more applications of insecticide (sprayed 10 to 12 days apart) may be required for total control.

4. The Euonymus scale will often infest surrounding vegetation like English ivy or pachysandra so be sure to treat or prune out infested plants so the problem will not recur in future years. Good luck!

Dear Plant Doctor: I hope you can help me on this matter. For the past three years my silver maple has leafed out in the spring as normal. By early summer the leaves start turning brown. By the late summer it is bare and by the early fall it begins leafing out again. The tree is not growing as fast as this type of maple usually does. All other trees growing around the silver maple are doing fine and do not seem affected by the same problem.

—Jacksonville

ANSWER: I am unable to diagnose the pest problem from the leaf samples you sent me. Regardless of the disease or insect problem plaguing your tree, a cure will be very difficult or futile.

I have an answer but you probably will not like it. I am biased against silver maples (*Acer saccharinum*) because they are messy, have poor limb structure (prone to limb breakage), are prone to dozens of insect and disease problems, and are extremely prone to leaf scorch during hot, dry summers.

The British love these trees in their gardens but in American soil (especially southeastern North Carolina), they do not even make good firewood. Silver maples are popular with many homeowners and mail order plant nurseries because they are so fast-growing, but I rarely see a plant free of insects or disease.

I recommend you properly dispose of your silver maple and plant a native red maple (*Acer rubrum*) in its place. Many new locally adapted cultivars of red maple are available

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