

JAPANESE MAPLE SCALE is an exotic armored scale that infests red maple, Japanese maple, dogwood, and broadleaf evergreens like holly, Japanese holly, and boxwood. Additionally, it can be found on other ornamentals such as the Bradford pear tree pictured right.



Photo by Phil Haar, Japanese maple scale on Bradford Pear

causing branch dieback, thinning canopy, and

death

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the first week of U Treatment

includes applying a high rate of pyriproxyfen with horticultural oil (minimum 0.5%) starting now and continuing through May to prevent crawler establishment. If establishment is found early, pruning and burning the infested branches can also be an effective strategy.

TSU NURSERY NEWS TO USE

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Granulate Ambrosia Beetles (*Xylosandrus crassiusculus*) are pests of dogwood, redbud, maple, ornamental cherry, Japanese maple, crape myrtle and many fruit trees. Females bore into twigs, branches, or small trunks of live trees. Once inside, the beetles inoculate the tree with ambrosia fungus and lay eggs to produce a brood. Damage can be clearly seen from the sawdust strands exuding from the holes drilled by the female (photo right). In addition to direct damage to the tree, secondary pathogens may find their way inside the holes once the female has bore inside. While typically active in early March, initial flights may occur once temperatures exceed 70°F occurring as early as February. It takes 55 days to complete one generation and the adults overwinter in galleries within the trees. The beetles feed on the ambrosia fungus as they develop so it is difficult to control them once they have made it inside. Best management strategy for controlling ambrosia beetles is to maintain healthy trees and to apply pyrethroids 2 to 3 weeks before beetles are in flight and reapply every 2 weeks. Due to the cooler weather this spring a major ambrosia beetle flight has not yet occurred but may take place as soon as weather warms up. Due to winter freeze damage, more frequent scouting measures may need to be taken due to the excess stress on the trees starting the year. Alternative treatment options for ambrosia beetles are being researched however, at the present time, the most effective treatment currently available is trunk sprays of Perm-Up 3.2EC at the rate of 5 quarts per 100 gallons. Reapplication may be necessary in the case of a weather event.



Boring dust from adult beetles on a cherry tree PHOTOGRAPH BY Johnathan



Annual Sowthistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*) PHOTO CREDIT: DR. ANTHONY WITCHER

WEED OF THE MONTH: Annual sowthistle is a cool season annual broadleaf weed native to Europe and Asia and distributed across most of the United States. Annual sowthistle establishes in disturbed areas such as roadsides and crop fields, but is commonly found in landscape beds and nursery fields. Annual sowthistle seeds germinate in fall or early spring, forming a rosette then developing upright multi-branched stems growing to 4 ft tall. Leaves are blue-green in color, have spiny margins, are larger and deeply lobed at the bottom of the plant, while upper leaves alternate along the stem and have a pointed lobe that surrounds the stem. The leaves and stem emit a milky sap when cut that distinguish it from true thistles. Similar in appearance to prickly lettuce, annual sowthistle lacks sharp prickles on the underside of the leaf midrib. Plants produce yellow flowers (up to 1 inch wide) summer through fall, arranged in clusters at the end of each branch. The fruit is a single-seeded achene with long white pappus that facilitates seed dispersal in the wind (similar to dandelion), with a single plant producing over 4,000 seeds. Annual sowthistle has a shallow taproot with branching fibrous roots and is easy to remove from the soil. Annual sowthistle is a common host for aphids and nematodes so control is important. Glyphosate can be used to control small plants prior to flowering. Pre-emergent herbicide applications can prevent annual sowthistle establishment and effective products contain flumioxazin, indaziflam, isoxaben, oxadiazon, oxyfluorfen, and napropamide. Please contact Dr. Anthony Witcher (awitcher@tnstate.edu) for more information on nursery weed control practices.

Further extension publications for more information on ambrosia beetle and Japanese maple scale below:

[https://www.tnstate.edu/extension/documents/Ambrosia beetle Factsheet 01312023.pdf](https://www.tnstate.edu/extension/documents/Ambrosia%20beetle%20Factsheet%2001312023.pdf)

chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://www.tnstate.edu/extension/documents/Japanese%20Maple%20Scale%20In%20the%20Nursery%20--%20edit111521.pdf



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