

A Bug's Life

Magnolia scale

Neolecanium cornuparvum

Fun facts

- Immobile insect with no visible legs, wings or antennae
- Suck plant juices and secrete large amounts of sticky honeydew
- Nymphs are called "crawlers" and only mobile stage (mid-late August)
- Host plants include various magnolia species and tulip tree

Identification

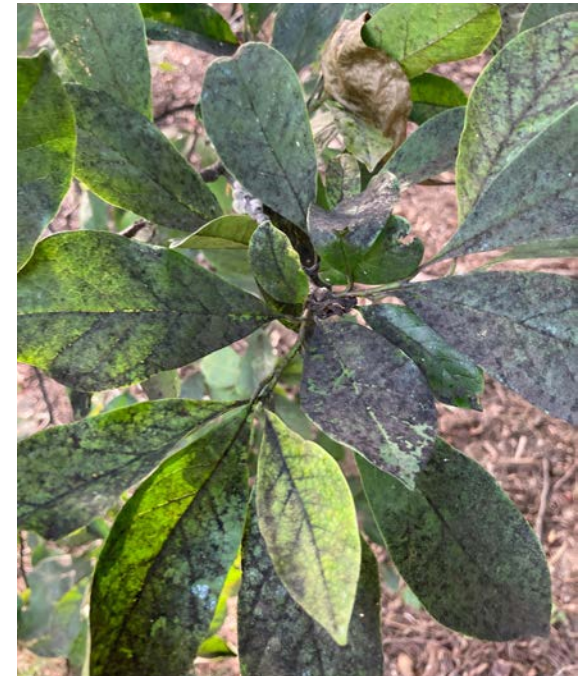
Damage: Sooty mold fungi from honeydew, weak branches, slow growth, branch dieback, tree death

Nymph: Smaller than pinhead, yellow to reddish-brown, flattened body

Adult: Shiny brown, up to 1/2" long, turn white to brownish-purple, immobile, enlarge through July

Management

- Prune out infested branches
- Target crawlers with contact insecticide in fall, long after bloom
- Horticultural/summer oil from mid-August until freeze
- Dormant oil to overwintering nymphs early spring before buds open
- Systemic soil drench by professional



Photos: J. Green