

EUROPEAN ELM SCALE—*Gossyparia spuria*

HOST: Elm

IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE: Mature female scales are oval, up to 10 mm long, and reddish-brown with a white fringe. Males are much smaller. Nymphs (crawlers) are brownish-gray, wingless, and resemble mealybugs.

Scales overwinter as nymphs on the bark of twigs and branches. During spring the nymphs feed on the sap of branches. Adults appear in May and June and continue to feed. In late June or July crawlers hatch from eggs laid on the branches and migrate to the underside of leaves. They molt to a nymphal stage which remains stationary while feeding on sap. In September or early October nymphs migrate to twigs and branches where they overwinter.

When feeding, nymphs and mature scales secrete honeydew, a sticky substance that coats the leaves, lower branches, and ground. Heavy infestations may kill small branches.

CONTROL: Spray trees with acephate, oxydemeton-methyl, carbaryl, or chlorpyrifos in late June to kill crawlers.



European elm scales