

# OYSTERSHELL SCALE—*Lepidosaphes ulmi*

**HOSTS:** Ash, maple, lilac, and many other species of hardwood trees and shrubs

**IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE:** Crawlers are very small, flattened and pale yellow or orange. Scales resemble tiny oyster shells, are gray to purplish-brown, and are about 3 mm long at maturity.

Scales overwinter as eggs beneath female shells. Crawlers emerge in May or June, migrate to a feeding site, and molt to the immobile scale form. Nymph and adult oystershell scales feed on the sap of twigs, branches, and thin-barked stems.

Branch and tree mortality may result from large scale infestations.

**CONTROL:** Spray twigs, branches, and

stems with superior oil in the spring before buds expand or with malathion or acephate when crawlers are present. During winter, scrape parent scales filled with overwintering eggs from infested tree parts by lightly rubbing with a plastic or Teflon<sup>®</sup> dish pad.



Oystershell scales