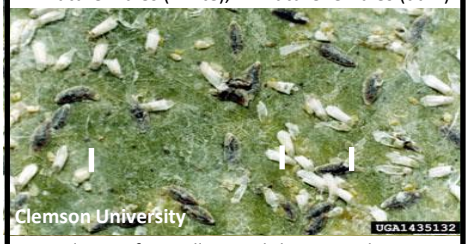
URBAN TREE PESTS IN LOUISIANA

Tea scale

PEST IDENTIFICATION

- Scientific name: *Fiorinia theae*
- Origin: Asia
- Invasive armored scale; 1.5 mm in length
- Crawlers are yellow and flat with developed legs; only stage that moves until it settles on plant
- All other immatures and females remain stationary
- Adult males have wings used to find females for mating (males do not feed)
- Multiple generations per year (1 generation in ~50 days)



Immature males (white), immature females (dark)

Females are first yellow and then turns brown

Life stages of tea scale (Bugwood.org)

DESCRIPTION OF DAMAGE

C. Hesselein, Alabama Cooperative Extension | Florida Division of Plant Industry

Pest infestation on leaf underside (left) and chlorosis on leaf upperside (right)

- Attacks camellias and hollies in USA, but also tea, olive, mango, citrus in other countries
- Piercing-sucking mouthparts are used to suck plant nutrients
- Signs: Chlorosis in upperside, white waxy cover on underside, dropping of leaves, reduced blooms, small cuttings may die

PEST DISTRIBUTION

Reported in Southeastern USA, TX, CA and LA (see blue circles for states with known records, no distribution maps available)

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Prevention:

- Landscape: Pruning recommended to open canopies, reduce scale densities by heat or parasitoids, and better chemical coverage
- Monitor: Visual inspection of trees; squash few scales to check if they are alive (fluids will come out)

Treatments: (follow product label for rates, timing, and safety)

- Spray horticultural oils to underside of leaves (except at T>90°F)
- Apply systemic insecticides such as Imidacloprid to the roots

Natural control: Some predators and wasps attack the pest. Picture shows lady beetle larva feeding on tea scale

(Picture from Bugwood.org)

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