

All of those tiny white bugs: Euonymus Scale

If your euonymus vine or shrub is being attacked by scale, chances are that you are well aware of the problem. Euonymus scale (*Unaspis euonymi*) are tiny, but are readily visible when gathered *en masse* – common signs of an infestation include the presence of small, white male insects (fig. 1) and dull grayish-brown scallop-shaped females.

Euonymus scale are sucking insects that attach themselves to all parts of the plant. The immobile females feed on the plant's nutrients, causing the foliage to yellow and eventually die. In general, the infested plant appears water stressed, the leaves develop yellow spots and fall off, and twigs and limbs may die. When a heavy infestation occurs, the plant may become defoliated by mid-summer. Keep a close eye on plants that are situated close to buildings: their location makes them more susceptible to damage due to decreased air circulation and increased moisture stress.

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1. A typical example of an euonymus scale infestation. It isn't pretty.