Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

Department of Entomology
123 West Waters Hall
K-State Research and Extension
Manhattan, Kansas 66506
785-532-5891
http://blogs.k-state.edu/kansasbugs/
http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/extension

May 20, 2016 No 12

European Fruit Lecanium Scale: Adding a "Decorative Touch" to Bald Cypress

The European fruit lecanium scale (*Parthenolecanium cornii*) is quite noticeable on bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) twigs and branches. The damage associated with this scale, which depends on the extensiveness of the infestation, includes plant stunting and wilting. The European fruit lecanium scale is a soft scale, so honeydew (a sticky, clear liquid) will be produced during feeding. The honeydew serves as a substrate for black sooty mold and attracts ants. In addition, honeydew can drip onto vehicles parked underneath infested trees leaving unsightly residue.

The scales are dark brown, 1/8 to 1/4 inches in diameter (Figures 1 and 2). Some scales may have white markings on the body. European fruit lecanium scale overwinters as an immature on twigs and branches with maturing occurring in spring. In May and June, females lay many eggs underneath their bodies. In June eggs hatch into small tan-colored crawlers. The duration of an egg hatch can last several days depending on the temperature. Crawlers migrate to leaf undersides and subsequently feed on plant fluids until late summer. At that point, the crawlers migrate back onto twigs and branches to complete their development the following spring. There is one generation per year in Kansas.

Figure 1 & 2: Mature European Fruit Lecanium Scales on Bald Cypress (May 2016)

Management of European fruit lecanium scale primarily involves timely applications of insecticides. Applications should be made when crawlers are present because the crawlers are most vulnerable life stage to insecticide sprays. Mature scales possess a shell-like covering that protects them from exposure to insecticides. Repeat applications will be required as the eggs do not all hatch simultaneously but may hatch over a three to four-week period. The most appropriate time to apply insecticides is in late June to early July when the crawlers are feeding on leaves; thus enhancing their exposure to any spray residues. There are a number of insecticides, with contact activity that are effective in suppressing populations of the European fruit lecanium scale. However, many have broad-spectrum activity and will kill many natural enemies including: parasitoids and predators. In fact, most out-breaks of scale insects are caused by the indiscriminate use of pesticides (insecticides and miticides). Therefore, always read the label and exercise caution when applying any pesticide. In the winter, dormant oils can be applied to kill overwintering scales by means of suffocation.

I need to acknowledge Jeff Otto of Wichita, KS for bringing to my attention that European fruit lecanium scale was active. I have also observed infestations in Manhattan, KS.

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New Extension Publication

New Extension Publication on "Brownheaded Ash Sawfly" (MF-3297). The publication can be accessed from the following link:

http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/Item.aspx?catId=524&pubId=19699

Raymond Cloyd

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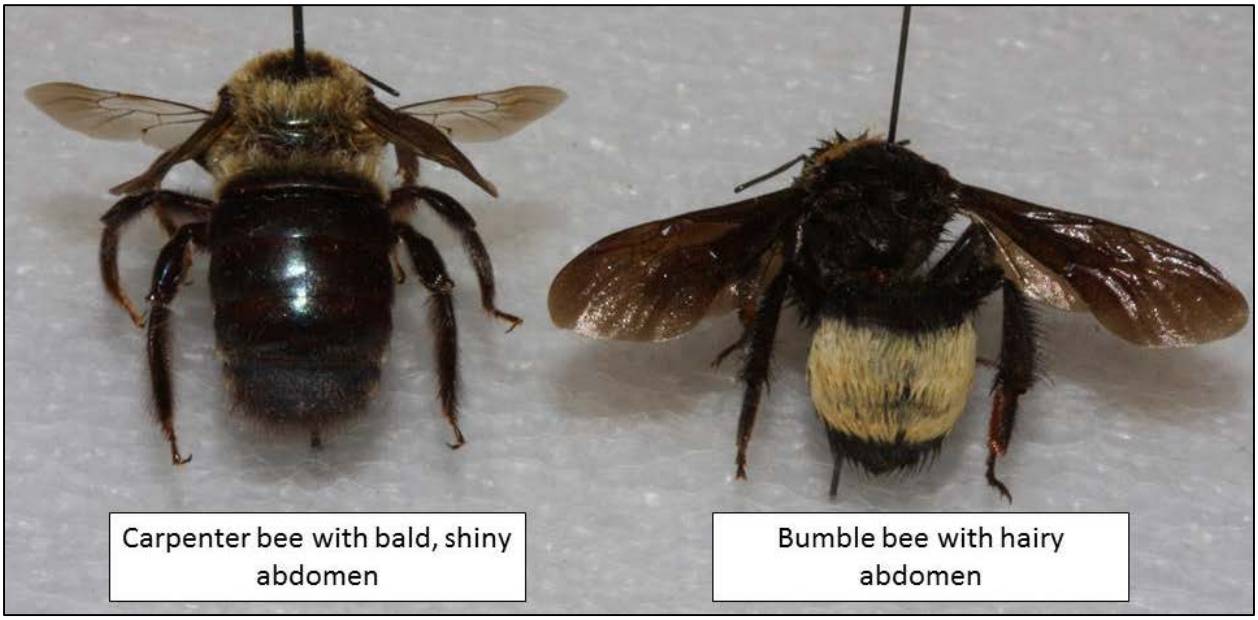
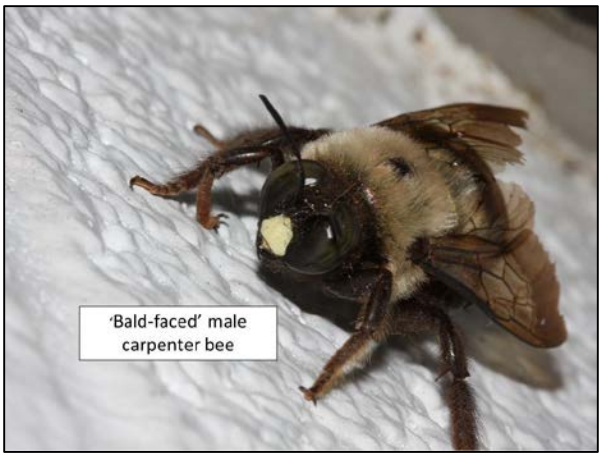
Carpenter Bees

These large bumble bee look a-likes have been relatively active across the state in the last week. The reproductive adults, especially the' bald-faced' males are quite noticeable around wooden structures. These males are very territorial and their behavior of 'dive-bombing' any intruders, including humans and pets, is what draws attention to their presence. These males are totally harmless as they do not have the ability to sting, and will die shortly after mating with females that emerge in the area.





Carpenter bees do not consume wood but do tunnel into untreated wooden structures to create nests for oviposition and larval development. Please see the KSU, Carpenter Bees, for biology and management information:

http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF2946.pdf

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Termites vs. Ants

Termites and ants have both been swarming intermittently for the past couple of weeks. Both species usually start swarming in April in Kansas, but the cooler April temperatures seemed to have delayed this behavior for about a month.

Please make positive identification of any insects you suspect may be a pest, but especially ants and termites because there is an enormous difference in the amount of damage potential of termites vs. ants. Note that although carpenter ants may nest in wooden structures, they will not cause the same degree of damage as a termite infestation. Because of this, the cost of management for a termite infestation is much greater than carpenter ants. For more information on termites and ants, please visit:

Termites: https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF2887.pdf

Ants: http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf722.pdf

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Ticks

Ticks are very active throughout the state, and have been for the past month. The most commonly reported species has been the American dog tick, *Dermacentor variabilis*.

The cool, humid weather over the past month has provided great conditions for tick development. These annoying, and potentially dangerous parasites have even been encountered in corn fields, which is unusual as they typically develop in more undisturbed areas of grasses, weeds, and other overgrown vegetation. But, they are very good at finding hosts and getting the blood meal they require for development and reproduction. For more information on ticks in Kansas, please visit: https://www.vet.k-state.edu/vhc/docs/ticks-in-kansas.pdf

Jeff Whitworth Holly Schwarting

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Insect Diagnostic Laboratory Report

http://entomology.k-state.edu/extension/diagnostician/recent-samples.html

Eva Zurek

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Sincerely,

Raymond A. Cloyd
Professor and Extension Specialist
Horticultural Entomology/Integrated Pest Management
Phone: 785-532-4750
Fax: 785-532-6232
e-mail: rcloyd@ksu.edu

Jeff Whitworth
Extension Specialist
Field Crops
phone: 785/532-5656
e-mail: jwhitwor@ksu.edu

Holly Schwarting
Research Associate
Phone: (785) 532-4730
e-mail: holly3@ksu.edu

Eva Zurek
Insect Diagnostician
Phone: (785) 532-4710
e-mail: ezurek@ksu.edu

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | Department of Entomology

Agriculture Cooperating, John D. Floros, Director.