

# Nature's Notebook

## Phenophase Photo Guide

### *Neolecanium cornuparvum* magnolia scale



**PEST PATROL  
CAMPAIGN**

#### Why Observe?

Native to the eastern U.S., magnolia scale (*Neolecanium cornuparvum*) specializes on magnolia trees and tulip trees and is one of the largest soft scale insects in North America, reaching up to 0.5 inches in length. The scale spends the winter as small dark nymphs, but during the spring they begin to feed, grow, and change color to a brown-purple color. Crawlers emerge after hatching internally from adults in late summer into early fall. This is the stage when the insects are most vulnerable to treatment.

We forecast crawler emergence based on growing degree days. Treatments are often applied when crawlers emerge from their eggs and before they develop their protective waxy coating.

#### Tips for Identification

The magnolia scale is one of the largest scale insects. Adult females are about half an inch in diameter. They are smooth, elliptical, pinkish-orange to brown insects covered with a white, waxy coating.

Be aware that there is variation from individual to individual within a species, so your insect may not look exactly like the one pictured. If you are uncertain whether or not a phenophase is occurring, report a "?" for its status until it becomes clear what you are observing after subsequent visits.



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### Adults

One or more adults are seen moving about or at rest. For *Neolecanium cornuparvum*, the wingless, pinkish-orange to brown adult females, often covered with a whitish wax, are settled in one spot on a plant and do not move whereas the winged, adult males are mobile. Also include white-wax-covered instars as they are difficult to distinguish from adult females.

### Image Needed

email  
[photos@usanpn.org](mailto:photos@usanpn.org)

### Male adults

One or more adult males are seen moving about or at rest. For *Neolecanium cornuparvum*, adult males are tiny, gnat-like and pink to yellow in color with two long waxy threads extending from the tip of the abdomen.

### Image Needed

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### Mating

A male and female are seen coupled in a mating position, usually with the male on top of the female.



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### Crawlers

One or more crawlers are seen moving about or at rest. For *Neolecanium cornuparvum*, these first-instar nymphs are yellow to reddish-brown in color and move around before settling in one spot on a plant.

**Phenophases not pictured:** Feeding, Dead adults, Individuals in a trap