



# ABOUT MAGNOLIA AND TULIP TREE SCALE

**Magnolia and Tulip Tree Scale** are insects that insert a needle-like mouth to feed on tree sap. Magnolia Scale feeds only on magnolia while Tulip Scale feeds on both magnolia and tulip trees. If not controlled, they can kill tree branches and smaller trees.

It's very difficult to tell the difference between them but fortunately the control methods are the same.

**Identification:** Magnolia and Tulip scale are known as "soft scales". They're one of the largest scales and can be up to 0.5 inches long when mature. They feed on plant sap and excrete a sticky sap-like substance known as "honeydew". This honeydew also attracts a fungus called sooty mold that looks like black dust. The mold itself is harmless but an indicator for scale. They can be hard to see depending on their growth stages but adult females are easy to see, having a white waxy covering as they mature in the summer in Kansas City.



**Life Cycle-** These insects have one generation per year and lay their eggs in late summer/early fall. The newly hatched eggs become the "crawler or nymph" stage where they overwinter as nymphs and mature into adults during the summer.

**Control-** They are vulnerable in the crawler stage in early spring. Spray **ferti-lome Horticultural Oil** on branches before bud break in mid-late Feb. - early March. The air temperature needs to be above freezing for at least 24 hours after applying, per label instructions. Thorough coverage is important. Realistically, trees

taller than about 30 feet will need to be treated by a professional tree service with spray pumps that can reach the upper branches.

**ferti-lome Tree & Shrub Systemic Insect Drench** applied in late June- early July is simply poured at the trunk base and easy for a homeowner to use.

Please keep in mind that these insects are difficult to control and it may take 2-3 years of treatments for acceptable results.



## Soil Service Garden Center, Inc.

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