

## **Scale Insects**

Scale insects are sap feeders that live under a shell-like covering on the stems, twigs, and branches of many different plants. The scale may be hard and shellac-like, soft and waxy, or cottony.

Scale crawlers can move for a short time after hatching before they settle down to feed and secrete a new cover. During this time, crawlers are vulnerable to insecticide sprays and are more easily killed. A spray of superior oil during the dormant season will also control scale insects. Prune heavily infested stems and branches. Destroy prunings.