Crapemyrtle Bark Scale

Gary Knox
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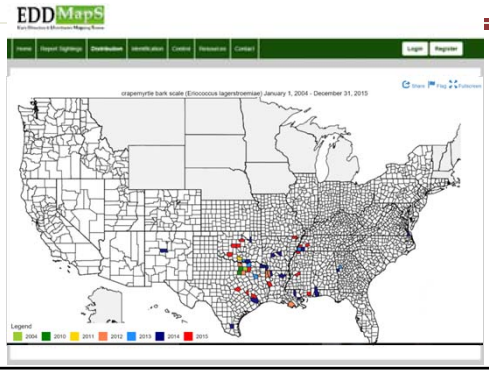
Distribution: http://www.eddmaps.org/cmbs/



Crapemyrtle Bark Scale

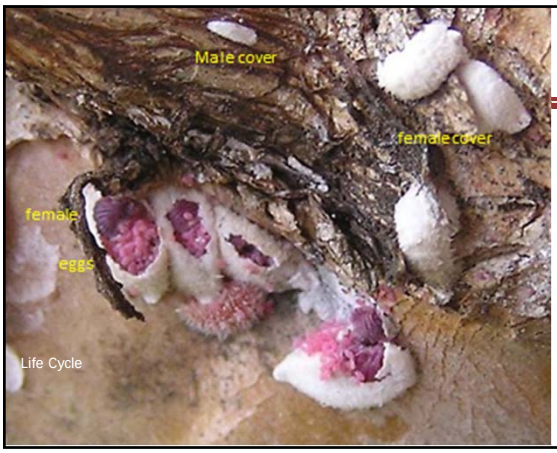
- *Eriococcus lagerostroemia* found in China and Japan on *Lagerstroemia indica*
- A felt or bark scale appearing as white, waxy encrustations on stems, often in branch crotches
- Not considered armored scale or soft scale

Crapemyrtle Bark Scale: Signs and Symptoms

- Black sooty mold covers extensive areas of leaves, stems and trunks due to CMBS exuding large amounts of honeydew

Crapemyrtle Bark Scale

- Appears as white, waxy encrustations on stems, often in branch crotches
- Found on trunks, stems, twigs; almost never on leaves
- Up close, appears white or gray but "bleeds" pink when crushed



Crapemyrtle Bark Scale: Observations

- All common crapemyrtles are susceptible:
  - *Lagerstroemia indica*
  - *L. fauriei*
  - Hybrids
- L. fauriei and hybrids generally appear more susceptible (due to vigor?)
- China: pomegranate (*Punica granatum*) may be susceptible

- Found in Cold Hardiness Zones 6 – 9+ in China

- Stressed or damaged plants appear more susceptible

Crapemyrtle Bark Scale: Observations

- Ants may "farm" CMBS

Crapemyrtle Bark Scale: Observations

- Many lady beetles are effective predators
  - Twice-stabbed lady beetle, Chilocorus spp.
  - Mealybug destroyer, Cryptolaemus montrouzieri
  - Bigemini lady beetle, Hyperaspis bigeminata
  - Others
- Lady beetles are not effective controls

Crapemyrtle Bark Scale: Research

- Ongoing in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas
- Grants obtained from USDA CPPM and S-IPM
- Team:
  - Drs. Mengmeng Gu & Mike Merchant; Erfan Vafaie, Janet Laminack & Laura Miller---TAMU
  - Drs. Jim Robbins and John Hopkins---Univ. of Arkansas
  - Drs. Allen Owings, Yan Chen and Zinan Wang---LSU
  - Dr. Gary Knox---UF
  - Evan Anderson---SHSU

Crapemyrtle Bark Scale: Research

- Does not appear to kill plants
- Causes significant aesthetic damage
  - Sooty mold
  - Reduced # flowers
  - Reduced flower size
  - Reduced vigor
  - Delayed spring budbreak

Crapemyrtle Bark Scale: Research

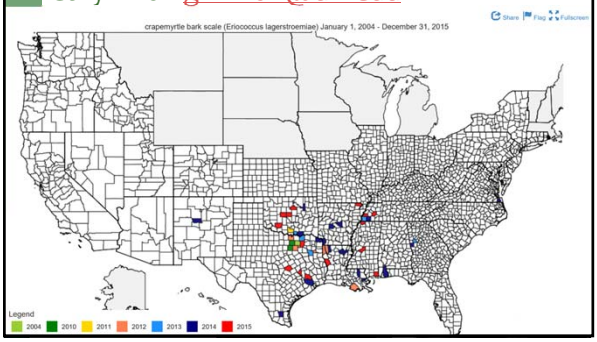
- 2 – 4 generations per year
- Pesticide efficacy:
  - Oils are ineffective
  - Soil-applied systemics are effective
  - Seeking alternatives to neonicotinoids

Crapemyrtle Bark Scale Management

- Insect spread primarily by movement of plants
- Inspect crapemyrtle before purchase
- Quarantine newly purchased crapemyrtle
- Scout regularly
- Notify your Extension agent & State plant inspector if found!

Please help map CMBS!

Notify your county faculty, DPI & Gary Knox gwknox@ufl.edu



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Crapemyrtle Bark Scale: Observations

- CMBS appears more abundant in shade than sun
  - Upper side of a twig exposed to the sun (left), and the underside (right) of the same twig

Crapemyrtle Bark Scale: Observations

- Loose and exfoliating bark may hide CMBS and protect CMBS from controls