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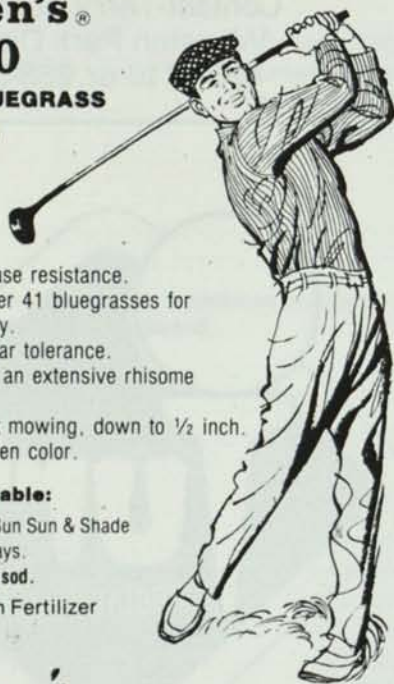
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## SCALE DOWN YOUR SCALE PROBLEMS

Have you noticed any small, rounded bumps that seems attached to the branches of your plants? According to Lori Wesley, Summer Extension Horticulturist in Cook County, these bumps may be one of the many kinds of scale insects.

Scales are small, soft bodied insects that form a hard, protective coat around themselves as they feed (thus the name scale).

These pests feed on the sap from branches and leaves of many species of plants. A heavy infestation may cause moisture loss. This can result in dieback or twigs and branches and premature leaf drop. During dry weather, severe moisture stress can occur and a heavy infestation of scales can kill an entire tree.

In addition to causing moisture loss, scales secrete a sticky fluid called honeydew. This honeydew can drip off of your plants and accumulate on your cars, sidewalks, and patios. Sooty mold, a black fungus lives on the honeydew and produces black, sticky areas wherever the honeydew falls in your yard.

You need to understand the life cycle of the scales so you may be effective in controlling them. In the spring or summer, young scales, or crawlers, emerge from the eggs. These crawlers move to the leaves or stems of the plants to feed. In late summer the scales move to the stems to overwinter. The scales resume development the following spring and undergo a period of rapid growth. The female scales lay eggs beneath the hard, protective covering and die. Later the eggs hatch and the cycle repeats itself.

Scale populations are normally regulated by several natural parasites and predators. If a severe outbreak occurs you should consider other control means. It is very important that your control method is properly timed. In the early spring, a dormant oil spray can be used. This spray will smother the insects and allow the natural predators to control any scales that do survive. If it is necessary to use chemical means for control, timing is crucial. Spraying must be delayed until the crawlers hatch, and before they form their protective coverings. One way to determine the application date if you can't identify the species of scale is to gently turn over the scale with a pin and look for emerging crawlers. If there are crawlers, it is time for you to spray. Two insecticide suggestions are diazinon or malathion. Follow the mixing methods and application rates on the label.

James A. Fizzell, Senior Ext. Adviser, Hort.  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dear Ray,  
Always enjoy reading your interesting monthly **Bull Sheet** and your June issue was no exception. I especially enjoyed James R. Watson's article on **Research Review of Sand**. Want to thank you, too, for using the NGF item.  
Trust all is going well with you. Hope our paths cross one day soon.

Harry C. Eckhoff, Dir., Information Serv.  
National Golf Foundation

Editor's note - It is the pleasure of the M.A.G.C.S. to send you the Bull Sheet.