

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Common Name: Brown Soft Scale

Scientific Name: *Coccus hesperidum* (Linnaeus)

Order and Family: Homoptera, Coccidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph	0.4 – 0.9 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• early-stage nymphs called “crawlers” look like miniature mealybugs• as they grow older, they become immobile
Adult	2.5 – 5.0 mm (females)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• adult females are wingless bumps that are oval or round, soft, and legless• adult males are rare• they are very small, with yellow wings

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Piercing-sucking

Host plant/s: Citrus, many fruits and houseplants, various ornamental trees and shrubs.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

At both stages the sap is sucked out of the leaves of the plant, which causes them to turn yellow and fall off. In severe infestations the plant will die. The scale also secretes something referred to as Honeydew, which provides an ideal environment for a fungus, called sooty mold, to form. This turns black and reduces the amount of light that can be taken in, which will reduce vigor and can make fruit fall off.

References:

- Barker, James R. "NCSU: ENT/ort-32 BROWN SOFT SCALE." NCSU: BROWN SOFT SCALE. North Carolina State University, Apr. 1998. Web. 29 Feb. 2016. <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/brown-soft-scale>
- Clifford-Adlerz, W. (1955) Biology of the Soft Brown Scale, Coccus hesperidum Linn., and Control of Soft Scales on Holly. Department of Entomology. Oregon State College.
- Cranshaw, Whitney. Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs. Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP, 2004. Print.
- "Soft Brown Scale - Organic Pest Control." Soft Brown Scale - Organic Pest Control. Weekend Gardener, n.d. Web. 29 Feb. 2016. <http://www.weekendgardener.net/garden-pests/soft-brown-scale-100710.htm>