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Fletcher scale

Parthenolecanium fletcheri

Hosts: Yew and arborvitae. This insect overwinters as a small, reddish brown nymph on twigs and needles. Vulnerable overwintering females (before egg production occurs) are present as redbud and Koreanspice viburnum are in bloom. Look for crawlers as elderberry or 'Hills of Snow' hydrangea are in bloom.

Management:

This is primarily a nursery pest and is not usually observed in the landscape. In the landscape, natural enemies, including several small wasps, often control Fletcher scale.

Brown ovals on twigs are scales; examine the interior branches of the shrub and look for sooty mold.



Arrow points to hole in scale caused by one of the tiny wasps that are internal parasites.

Photo: Darwin Dale