



# NCDA&CS

## Plant Industry Division Plant Protection Section

# PEST ALERT

### Crape Myrtle Bark Scale

*Eriococcus lagerstroemiae* Kuwana 1907  
(Hemiptera: Eriococcidae)



Crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS), *Eriococcus lagerstroemiae* Kuwana, is a felt scale that is a pest of crape myrtles and was first discovered in Richardson, TX in 2004. The insect has since spread throughout the southeastern U.S. and was found in North Carolina in August, 2016. Infestations of this pest destroy the aesthetic value of crape myrtle trees in the landscape.



a) Crape myrtle bark scales; b) Heavy infestation of CMBS on crape myrtle; c) CMBS nymphs (crawlers); d) black sooty mold caused by buildup of honeydew deposits from CBMS infestation; e) example of panicle size reduction (bottom panicles) due to CMBS

### HOSTS:

This pest is known to infest crape myrtles (*Lagerstroemia* sp.) and pomegranate (*Punica* sp.)

### IDENTIFICATION:

CMBS is one of the only scales known to infest crape myrtles. Adult females appear as felt-like white or gray encrustations measuring about 2 mm long that stick to crape myrtle twigs, branches, and trunks. The scales exude a pink blood-like liquid when crushed. The eggs are pink and laid in clusters of approximately 100-300 hatching into nymphs (crawlers) that are pink. As the nymphs mature they can turn gray or brown. Though rarely seen, adult males are winged and mobile.

### SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS:

This pest causes extensive honeydew deposits causing the growth of black sooty mold on infested trees. Additionally, in large infestations this pest causes a reduction in the size of the panicles produced by the tree. While this pest does not kill the tree, it effectively destroys the tree's aesthetic value in a landscape.

### WHAT TO DO:

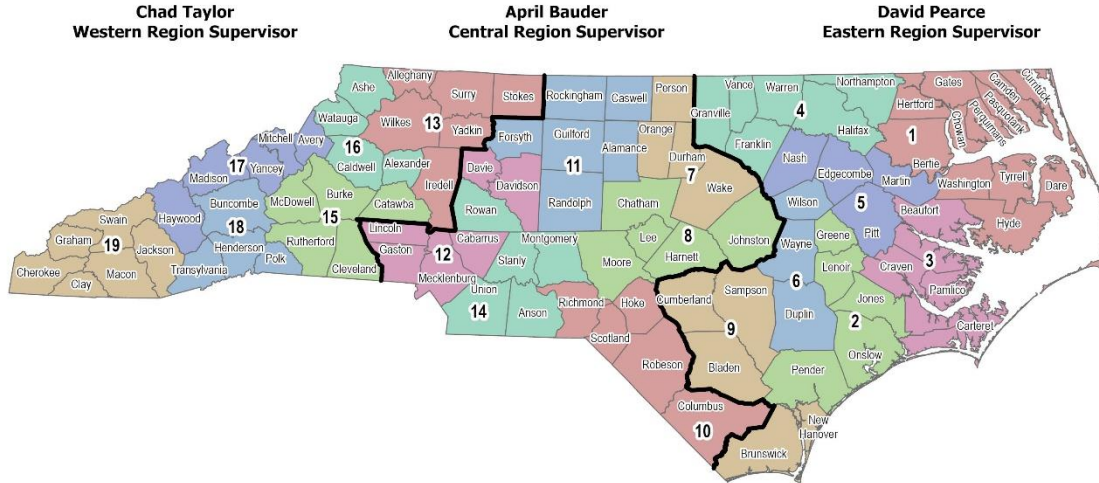
**Collect a specimen:** Specimens of any life stage may be submitted to the NCSU Insect and Disease Clinic for verification. Please contact your local plant pest specialist (contact information on back of this alert) for assistance with specimen submission.

**Take a picture:** A photograph of any life stage can be submitted to [newpest@ncagr.gov](mailto:newpest@ncagr.gov).

**Report a site:** Contact your local county extension agent (call 919-515-2813 or visit <https://www.ces.ncsu.edu/local-county-center>) or report your find to 800-206-9333 or [newpest@ncagr.gov](mailto:newpest@ncagr.gov).

**Note:** Long-range dispersal of CMBS occurs through movement of infested plants. Please inspect crape myrtle material prior to transporting from one location to another. There are various methods of controlling this pest. Please contact your nearest county extension agent for recommendations.

**NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services**  
**Plant Industry Division – Plant Protection Section**  
**Plant Pest Specialist Work Areas**



**Specialist's Names, Contact Information and Assigned Areas**

Area 1:	Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, Washington	Joe Davenport	(919) 608-0635
Area 2:	Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pender	Bonnie Faulkner	(252) 521-3180
Area 3:	Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Pamlico	David Pearce	(252) 670-1742
Area 4:	Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Northampton, Vance, Warren	Derreck Long	(252) 567-1247
Area 5:	Edgecombe, Martin, Nash, Pitt	Juliet Whitehurst	(919) 218-1765
Area 6:	Duplin, Wayne, Wilson	Scott Cannady	(919) 270-4910
Area 7:	Durham, Orange, Person, Wake	April Bauder	(919) 777-3251
Area 8:	Chatham, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Moore	Jensen McLamb	(910) 638-4943
Area 9:	Bladen, Brunswick, Cumberland, New Hanover, Sampson	Chris Carter	(919) 218-8654
Area 10:	Columbus, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland	Michelle Shooter	(910) 734-3477
Area 11:	Alamance, Caswell, Forsyth, Guilford, Randolph, Rockingham	Andrew Allen	(336) 404-5873
Area 12:	Cabarrus, Davidson, Davie, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Lincoln	Heidi Humlicek	(406) 750-6432
Area 13:	Alleghany, Iredell, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes, Yadkin	Ginger Hemmings	(336) 314-9334
Area 14:	Anson, Montgomery, Rowan, Stanly, Union	Samuel Harris	(919) 604-3896
Area 15:	Burke, Catawba, Cleveland, McDowell, Rutherford	Amanda Cook	(828) 443-1289
Area 16:	Alexander, Ashe, Caldwell, Watauga	Chad Taylor	(336) 466-0478
Area 17:	Avery, Haywood, Madison, Mitchell, Yancey	Tim Hartley	(828) 260-0588
Area 18:	Buncombe, Henderson, Polk, Transylvania	Sue Dial	(828) 577-0915
Area 19:	Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain	Ryan Holquist	(828) 421-5445

**Mailing Address: 1060 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1060**  
**Physical Address: 216 West Jones Street, Raleigh NC 27603**  
**Phone: (919) 707-3730 | Fax: (919) 733-1041**

**Please visit our website at [www.ncagr.gov/plantindustry](http://www.ncagr.gov/plantindustry) for more information!**