

Thresholds/Monitoring

Determining the Need to Treat San Jose Scale in Plums and Almonds

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*Abstract:* The severity of San Jose scale infestation differs between almonds and plums. In almonds, fruiting wood death is of concern. In plums, fruit infestation is of concern. However, sampling for scale on 3-inch fruiting spurs, during the dormant season, is an excellent method of predicting the damage potential of San Jose scale in both crops. Over a period of 3 years, both crops were sampled and a relationship established between the number of infested spurs (100 sampled) and fruit infestation (plum) or wood death (almond). Based on this sampling method, 3 spurs infested per 100 sampled would be a tentative threshold for August harvested plums. The threshold for almonds would be 20 spurs infested per 100 sampled. In most cases, 8 gallons of horticultural mineral oil would provide needed San Jose scale control.