



# Living Water

## Lawn & Tree Care



### Cottony Maple Scale Fact Sheet

The cottony maple scale is an insect pest that most commonly attacks silver and red maples. It can survive, and attach to other trees, such as box elder, dogwood, sycamore, and other maples as well. Scales are usually noticed by the egg sacs which are 1/4 to 1/2 inch long and appear white and cotton like. Heavy infestations can result in branches being turned completely white. Like most other scale insects, they can be difficult to control with pesticides, because different stages of the life cycle are more resistant to pesticides. Normally this scale is more of a curiosity and nuisance than damage producing. Occasionally, heavy outbreaks of this scale occur, usually on weakened or stressed trees. These outbreaks can cause the death of numerous small branches and occasionally the death of a tree.

**Treatment:** Scales have many natural enemies that help keep the population in check, however these can sometimes fail. Dormant oil sprays prior to when the sap begins to run, can be effective. Pesticide use may also help, but only when applied during the proper phase of the insect's life cycle. Two applications, Mid-July and again in mid-August are recommended to catch the insect as it is moving around on trees before becoming adult.

The Living Water staff are always ready to assist you with your lawn and tree care needs.

**Give us a call at 1-800-LAWNCARE if you have any questions.**