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# Office of the State Forester

## Arizona State Forestry Division

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### FOREST HEALTH INFORMATION ALERT-APRIL 2015

#### **PINYON NEEDLE SCALE EGGS HAVE ALREADY HATCHED IN THE SEDONA AREA**

Pinyon needle scale was identified for the first time in Uptown Sedona and the Village of Oak Creek on transplanted pinyons, early in 2013. It has also been found on native pinyons growing in the area. The insect has continued to intensify on individual pinyons and has spread to other pinyon pines in the community in 2015.

It is critical that homeowners and businesses in both areas examine and treat their trees properly, before the insect spreads widely in their community. They are very difficult to control once they become well established.



Due to the very warm temperatures experienced recently at 4500 feet in elevation in Sedona, the eggs have already hatched and re-infested the pinyons. The “crawlers” have emerged from the egg stage and have attached themselves to the needles on the ends of the branches.

This is the stage of the complex life cycle for this insect which initiates new infestations of pinyons every year. The crawlers appear as tiny black dots stuck to the needles on the ends of the branches.



It is **too** late to remove the egg masses which were laid by the female scales on the pinyons in February!!

The scale crawler stage on the needles can be chemically treated using an EPA-approved insecticide. The insecticide label should state that the chemical is for treatment of “scale crawlers”. Trees should be sprayed as soon as possible before the scale insect develops a thicker protective cover.

**CAUTION!** Insecticides used improperly can be injurious to humans, animals, and plants. Follow directions and heed all precautions on the labels. **Contact a qualified and licensed professional for the proper treatment of your tree(s).**

Unless there are local water restrictions, consider slow, deep, and infrequent watering of your infested pinyons around your home starting now. With a properly installed and maintained drip system, or with a soaker hose placed around the dripline of the tree. Continue watering until the “monsoon” rains are well established.

Also refer to the Cooperative Extension watering brochure at:  
<http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/water/az1298.pdf>.

For further information about this damaging native insect in the Sedona area, contact: Bob Celaya, Forest Health Specialist, Office of the State Forester in Phoenix at (602) 771-1415 [bobcelaya@azsf.gov](mailto:bobcelaya@azsf.gov) or John Richardson, Forest Program Coordinator at 602-771-1420 [JohnRichardson@azsf.gov](mailto:JohnRichardson@azsf.gov) or Chris Erickson, Forest Program Specialist at 602-771-1407 [ChrisErickson@azsf.gov](mailto:ChrisErickson@azsf.gov)