

For more information on Crape Myrtle Bark Scale:

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Contact Us

The Memphis Tree Board usually holds regular public meetings on the third Thursday of every month at the Division of Parks and Neighborhoods at 3:00 P.M.

2599 Avery Ave
Memphis, TN 38112

Phone: 901-636-4200



Crape Myrtle Bark Scale

Identification & Treatment



Crape Myrtle Bark Scale: CMBS

History: (*Eriococcus lagerstroemiae*), of Asian origin, was first identified in Texas in 2004. It was identified in Germantown, TN in 2013 and is now confirmed in Memphis.



Healthy crape myrtles are important to the Mid-South landscape.

How to identify CMBS



The **female adult** appears on crape myrtle bark as a felt-like white or gray encrustation. This stage occurs in April through June & may occur two more times during the year.

CMBS often goes unnoticed until the Crape Myrtle limbs and trunk turn dark due to **black sooty mold**. Although heavy scale infestations are seldom fatal, the aesthetic impacts are significant. (below)



Good Insect that fights CMBS

Rule of Thumb: “If it’s moving, then leave it alone.” The twice stabbed lady beetle (left) and its pupa (right) feed on crape myrtle bark scale & should not be disturbed.



Treatment: Systemic Insecticides - (Sprays Do Not Work)

Based on current research, **systemic insecticides** applied to the root zone as a soil drench between May and July is the **most effective treatment**.

Scrubbing the felt-like females on the tree with a soft brush & detergent suds simply addresses aesthetics. Imidacloprid, thiomethoxam and dinotefuran have shown to be effective. Always read & follow label directions. For multiple trees, consider contacting a licensed arborist.