

Why Are My Crape Myrtles All Black With White Things On The Bark??

- What you have is *Eriococcus Lagerstroemiae* AKA, **Asian Bark Scale**. This is a very invasive insect that arrived just a few years ago from China.
- These insects are very invasive and can spread easily in many ways including by wind, other insects, and infected plants.
- It is very important to identify these insects and start treatment as soon as possible. We are currently recommending the following protocol:
- Upon verification, remove as much of the scale as you can using a soft bristle brush and soapy water.
- Sometime during the month of **March**, drench the root zone with Imidacloprid at the recommended rate for trees by size.
- **From Mid-April to May 1st**, spray with Bifenthrin 7.9% concentrate at a rate of 1T per gallon using a spreader/sticker like Bonide Turbo. Make sure you make a very thorough application. Repeat in 2 weeks.
- **October through February**, spray monthly w/ horticultural oil.
- <https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/p2938.pdf>