



## PESTS & DISEASES

# Scale

Scale belong to the order Hemiptera, the sap sucking insects. Scale is found mostly along the stem and underside of leaves, in large infestations they can be found across the entire plant. Scale can come in many different colours and sizes and can be found across a wide range of plants.

They can be identified by little lumps of the stem or leaf. Some can be quite distinctive whilst other are easily over looked. There are two different types of scale, hard scale and soft scale. They are immobile insects that form a protective covering over themselves as protection.

Scale can be a problem insect as they distort new growth and if left to reach high enough densities, can cause serious plant health problems and lead to death. Scale can cause a mottled look on the leaf where they have sucked the sap.

Scale is often associated with ants along the stems, they produce a honeydew that ants feed on. Honeydew that isn't collected by ants land on the tops of leaves and forms a growing platform for sooty mould.

### Control Methods

- Spray with horticulture oil, making sure to coat the entire population.
- If there are only small number, it may be possible remove them by hand.