Lecanium Scale Insect Notice and FAQ

There is currently an outbreak of Lecanium scale insects in the Glenview area. With many residents experiencing the symptoms of their spread, it is important to note that these insects are not harmful to humans. There are many types of scale insects. Typically, they appear as bumps or scales that can be seen along the twigs of affected trees. They are usually turtle-shaped, brown in color, and can range in size from $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to $\frac{1}{6}$ inch. These insects feed on branches and leaves of mostly Maple and Oak trees, but can appear on fruit trees and other tree species. At this moment, we are currently noticing a majority of the insects on Maple trees. Due to their feeding, a sap-like substance called “honeydew” is created and can be found on lower leaves and vegetation, cars, sidewalks and driveways where affected trees overhang.

How can I tell if I have a maple tree? An oak tree?

Maple trees are very common in Glenview. Their leaves have five pointed lobes and are easily recognizable. A picture of a maple leaf is provided below.
Oak trees are also common throughout Glenview. Several oak species are shown below (from Left to Right: Pin Oak, Burr Oak, White Oak). Most oak leaves will have lobes but each species will vary in shape and size.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pin Oak</th>
<th>Burr Oak</th>
<th>White Oak</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Pin Oak Leaf" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Burr Oak Leaf" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="White Oak Leaf" /></td>
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</table>

**Will it affect non-maple trees?**
Lecanium scales most commonly affect maple and oak trees, although they may be found on many other types of trees, such as fruit trees. While there are many species of lecanium scales, they all have very similar effects on trees and none of them are harmful to humans.

**What are the symptoms?**
If a tree is infected with lecanium scale insects, a sap-like substance called honeydew forms and may drip down onto lower vegetation, walkways, driveways, or cars. Affected trees may show yellowing leaves and twig dieback. Sooty mold may also appear and darken leaves or other surfaces that are covered by the honeydew.

**How did it get here? How does it spread?**
Lecanium scales and many other scale insects are always present in the Chicagoland area, but their numbers are normally kept in check by environmental factors and natural predators. However, parts of Glenview are currently experiencing abnormally high numbers of these insects. Lecanium scales live on twigs and hibernate there during the winter, so many of them have probably been here since last season. There are always scale insects in the area but the number of affected trees is unusually high this year.

**How long will the problem persist?**
Since the dripping is caused by scale insects, the problem will persist for as long as the bugs complete their life cycle. As the weather turns colder the insects will decrease feeding and the honeydew dripping will lessen. Scale outbreaks can recur for a couple of years but then scale populations usually decline and fewer trees are affected.

**Will this insect kill the tree?**
This is rare. Most healthy trees can recover from occasional scale infestation. Nevertheless, in some cases of heavy infestation some twigs and branches will be killed gradually, and particularly vulnerable or unhealthy trees may die.
What can be done about it? Can I do anything to help?
Landowners can reduce stress on trees to help them recover. One of the most important things to remember is to water trees during times of drought since the insects compete with the leaves for water. For landscape trees, avoid disturbances such as pruning and root damage.

Will the Village treat my parkway tree?
No, the Village will not treat trees affected with lecanium scales since most trees can survive the infestation and over time the scale outbreak will decrease on its own. In fact, many treatments that reduce populations of scale insects also reduce populations of beneficial insects that can help keep scale populations under control.

Should I treat trees on my property?
For light infestations, it is best not to treat trees, as many treatments will also reduce beneficial insects that prey on scale insects and help to control their numbers. For particularly heavy infestations, if the tree is unhealthy, at risk of dying, or if property damage is severe, some treatments are available. Consult with a private tree care company staffed by certified arborists. For more information, the following link lists several treatment options for trees affected with lecanium scales:
http://www.thetreegeek.com/problems/lecanium-scale/

Will the Village inspect trees for Lecanium Scales to make sure that’s what it is?
Yes, the Public Works Department may be contacted to confirm the presence of lecanium scales on your tree.

Are there any methods currently available to remove the “honeydew” substance?
Here are a few helpful tips for removing honeydew from your property:

For outdoor furniture, scrub using a mixture of two tablespoons of vinegar in a gallon of water.

For car exteriors, apply the wax and grease remover to a dry car. Then dampen a clean cloth with the solvent and rub the affected area. It may require several attempts if the sap is very thick or extremely hard. Rubbing alcohol, WD-40 lubricant or Skin-So-Soft bath oil have all proven effective against honeydew. Additionally, Mr. Clean Magic Erasers may be used to remove the honeydew. If you use the oil, wash the car afterwards to remove it.

For more information, visit the following links about honeydew removal:
https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/info/what-is-honeydew.htm
https://rtectreecare.com/lecanium-scale/