Lecanium Scale

FACT SHEET

GREEN DROP Tree Care

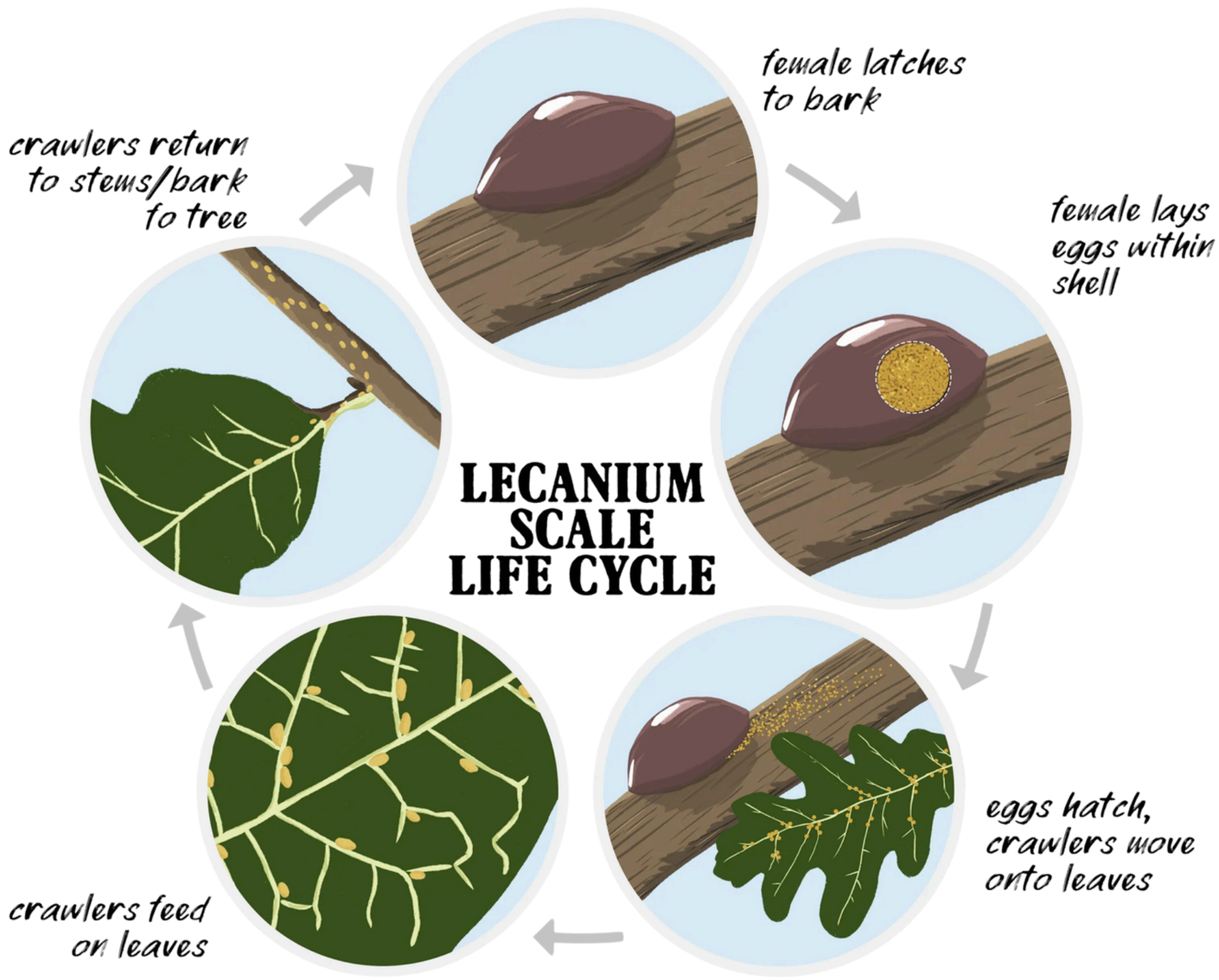
What They Are:

Lecanium scales are soft-bodied, sap sucking insects found on trees all throughout Canada. They are round, brown, and shiny, they look like small bumps found on twigs of both coniferous and deciduous trees, although they do prefer certain conifers.

Lecanium scale produce large amounts of honeydew, which attracts other insects. The honeydew also promotes growth of mold, which covers the leaves/needles/branches and reduces photosynthesis. Mold, combined with scale feeding can lead to stunted growth, premature leaf/needle drop, resulting in dead branches.

Life Cycle:

Lecanium scale have complete one generation annually. They overwinter as young nymphs on and in bark crevices on twigs. From April to May they mature into adults and begin mating and feeding on sap resulting in sticky honeydew. The females will develop a hard, brown shell and lay eggs beneath them. In late May to June the eggs will begin hatching into crawlers (the only vulnerable stage) and begin moving to feed on leaves/needles. In late summer to fall, nymphs move back to twigs, molt, and prepare for winter.



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Prevention/ Maintenance:

- Encourage tree health by fertilizing and proper watering.
- Prune heavily infested branches during winter or spring, destroy the branches to prevent spread.
- Chemical treatments (limited time frame).
- Manual removal by scrubbing scale off.





Contact:

Canada's Tree Expert

Green Drop Tree Care

Telephone: 1(833)-928-8733

Email: trees@greendrop.com

URL: https://www.greendroptrees.com/

Winnipeg - Calgary - Red Deer - Edmonton - Regina - Saskatoon



