

Managing Mango Scale

Life cycle description

- Females lay 80-200 eggs depending on temperature
- After hatching crawlers move to feeding sites settling within 24 hours
- Female crawlers settle randomly, male crawlers settle in groups close to females
- Up to 80% of crawlers become males
- Lifecycle takes 35-40 days in summer, 70-85 days in winter

Important facts

- Mango scale is present all year round, with overlapping generations throughout the year
- Peaks at flowering during spring and harvest

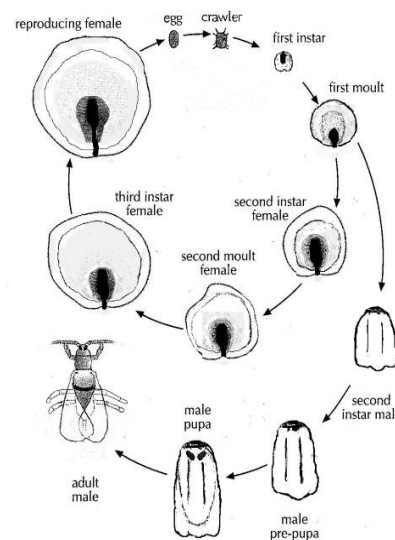
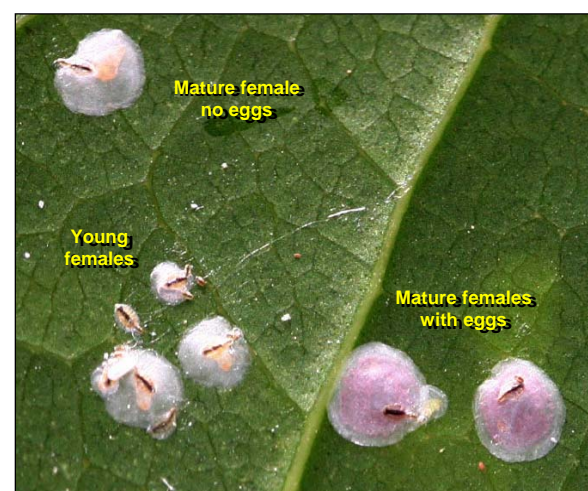
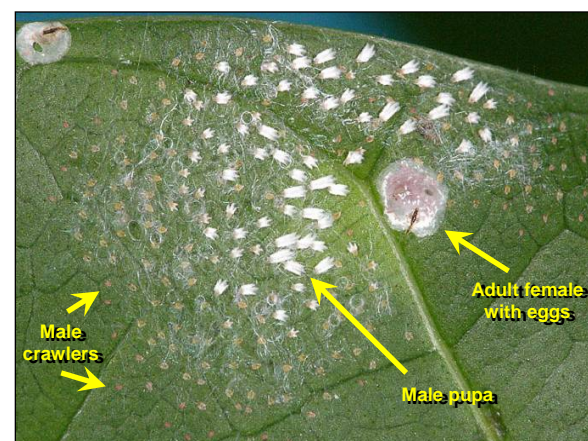


Figure 1. Life cycle of scale



Damage

- Infested areas on leaves turn pale green or yellow and ultimately die
- Heavy infestation can kill leaves and branches
- Causes conspicuous pink blemishes on fruit



Monitoring

- Monitor fortnightly, inspect leaves and twigs less than 1 year old
 - Lift the white transparent covering (A)
 - Check for live females, eggs & crawlers (B)
 - Females change from white to pink as eggs are laid under the shell (C)
- Monitor 5 branches on each of 10 trees per hectare
- Healthy, live scale colonies are covered by a white cottony growth



Scale management

- Natural mortality is high
- Control in lead up to harvest is critical
- Target sprays/chemicals to match crawler activity
- Prune to remove residual scale populations & to open canopy for spray penetration and sunlight after harvest

Chemical Control

1. Apply systemic or growth regulators to prevent population increase
2. Apply chemicals only if monitoring shows significant live scale activity
3. Preharvest application to prevent scale build up during harvest
4. High volume (1200L/ha) cover sprays after pruning with mineral oils and methidathion depending on scale activity

Seasonal pattern for mango scale

