

# Pest Notice: What you need to know about Gloomy Scale



**The Nixa area is being invaded by a pest insect known as Gloomy Scale.**

Gloomy Scale, *Melanaspis tenebricosa*, is an armored scale insect that primarily feeds on red maples but may be found on other maple species, elm, hackberry, and sycamore. It has been reported across the Ozarks from Branson and Springfield to Lake of the Ozarks. Gloomy scale can be very abundant in parking lot and street landscapes where a warmer microclimate exists. It is common to find affected trees with nearly 100% of their main trunk and mid to lower canopy branches covered in scale. Look for gray bumps or white dots on trunks or limbs.

**In severe cases, this pest may cause defoliation, branch dieback and even tree death.**

## What to do about Gloomy Scale:

Trees that are under stress due to lack of soil moisture and/or watering are prime targets for Gloomy Scale.

- Contact a Certified Arborist for consultation and/or treatment.
- Reduce stress on affected trees by watering them 2-3 times per month during dry conditions.

