



Landscape Division
Phone: 956.428.3411
landscapes@topcutcorp.com

Top Cut Lawn Care, Inc.
1200 East Business 83
La Feria, Texas 78559
Phone: 956.423.4318
Fax: 956.797.4179

PEST ALERT: COTTONY CUSHION SCALE

Cottony Cushion Scale, *Icerya purchasi*, has been in the Rio Grande Valley for some time, but it has usually been found on a few ornamental plants and citrus. This year the pest seems to be everywhere. It is even found on Sea Grape, which is generally pest free.

The scale itself is orange, yellow, or brown, but its most distinguishing feature is an elongated, white cottony egg sac that is attached to the body. This egg sac contains from 600 to 1,000 red eggs. Many plants this summer have stems which are completely covered by colonies of scale with their white egg sacs.

This scale, like others, sucks phloem sap from the plant's leaves, twigs, branches, and trunk. Defoliation and dieback of twigs and small branches are the outcome of heavy infestations. The scale excretes honeydew which is usually accompanied by black, sooty mold and ants. Homeowners and facilities managers must realize that this pest can completely devastate landscape plants.

With the approval of owners and managers, Top Cut Lawn Care can provide a service which attempts to curtail the spread and activity of this pest. Applying the pesticide *Safari* on two occasions, 14 days apart, can limit the devastating impact of the scale. *Safari* is a systemic pesticide, one which is taken up by the roots and leaves and translocated throughout the plant. When the pest tries to suck the phloem sap, it is killed.

Due to the high cost of this pesticide (retail \$575.00 for a small bottle with three pounds of material) there is a charge of \$50.00 per gallon applied. Top Cut Lawn Care will advise you of the need. Your approval is required for the pesticide application. For your information a photo is attached.

This information was compiled from existing sources for Top Cut Lawn Care, Inc.

MAURICE GAUTIER INTERNATIONAL, LLC
Landscape Consultants