

Kill Soft Brown Scale

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Certainly you have had Soft Brown Scale at some time or have it on some plant now. In the young stages they are soft brown turtle shaped insects which are not easily seen, but when mature they command attention by their size and profuse sticky secretions. Often, the first sign that this pest is present is the sticky appearance of the foliage and the black sooty mold that grows in these sticky secretions.

Soft Brown Scale is found on a wide variety of hosts such as citrus, rose, camellia, gardenia, poinsettia and many foliage plants.

The control was at one time a problem to retailer and grower alike. Fortunately, Dithiono and Malathion will readily kill it.

Dithiono (Sulfotepp) aerosol when used at the rate of one pound 5% Dithiono per 50,000 cu. ft. has given excellent control of all stages. To insure complete commercial control of heavy infestations, several applications, preferably 3, at weekly intervals should be applied. Light infestations where scales are not

overlapped and growing over one another can likely be controlled with one application. Applications with the smoke generator are effective and may be preferable for the small retail grower. These smokes should be used according to the manufacturer's directions. Since Dithiono is a poisonous material, it should be handled with due regard to the precautions provided on the label.

Malathion, a new insecticide, has been found effective against a wide variety of scales including Soft Brown Scale. This material is not very poisonous and is safe to use in most florist crops. The dosage recommended for best results is 1-1/2 pints of the 50% Malathion emulsifiable solution per 100 gallons or 2 pounds of the 25% Malathion wettable powder per 100 gallons of water. Several applications may be necessary.

Soft Brown Scale dies slowly so if the brown adults don't fall off the day after treatment, don't be discouraged; it may take as long as two weeks for the effectiveness of the treatments to become dramatically noticeable.