

## Armoured Scale Insects

The main pest scale is latania scale *Hemiberlesia lataniae*, but greedy scale, *H. rapax*, may also be found at times.

Changes in the quarantine status of latania scale in 2005 meant that armoured scales have become a minor pest. Monitoring for armoured scale is now optional but is recommended if scale are noted on the fruit at harvest the previous season.

How and when to sample for Armoured Scales:

- Monitoring is best carried out in January and April with a sample in October if the pest is abundant.
- Sample 10 leaves per tree taken from inside the canopy at a height of 1.5-2m. Both the top and underside of the leaf must be examined.
- Pick leaves and place in a pre-labelled bag with grower name, sample block, tree number, date picked and the number of leaves/tree. Fasten bags with ties.
- Place the sample bag in the shade until sampling is completed. Once in the PMC keep in a cool place. Open the top of bag to reduce condensation if necessary. Do not refrigerate.
- Using a microscope or maglamp examine leaves for the presence of live settled scales.
- To determine whether a scale is alive or dead, the top of the scale must be removed.
- Live Scale - the body under the cap will be plump, bright yellow/gold and when probed will be full of fluid.
- Dead Scale - the body will be brown, bloated and liquid or have a dried out, dark appearance.
- Record the numbers of leaves infested with live scale.
- An alternative technique is to monitor scale on 5 fruit/tree in the field by determining whether the scale is live can be difficult using a hand lens in situ.

Action Threshold Levels

If the following thresholds are exceeded a spray application is recommended:

More than 4% of leaves infested with live scale;

OR

More than 6% of fruit infested with live scale.