Crape Myrtle Bark Scale

Local residents are likely to notice the presence of Crape Myrtle Bark Scale on crape myrtle trees. The small insects (pictured left) attach to the bark of trees and, as they feed, excrete a sticky "honeydew" residue. Residents may first notice the problem because of the black "sooty mold" that grows and covers the branches and leaves of infected trees.

Control Options

- **Cultural Control** - Keep trees healthy. Visit www.treesaregood.com for tips.
- **Mechanical Control** - Scrub the bark of infected trees. This will remove the attached insects and help reduce the presence of sooty mold.
- **Chemical Control** - Treat infected trees with a horticulture oil at any time of year. Systemic drench insecticides can be applied in early spring to avoid harming pollinators. Follow all label directions.

For more information, call (252) 482-6585.