

Giant Pine Scale Transition To Management Frequently Asked Questions

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

I have an infestation of giant pine scale. What can I do?

You may consider removing any infested trees on your property to reduce the spread.

Should you need to prune or destroy any host trees located on your property, please contact Agriculture Victoria on 136 186 or email gpsproject.manager@ecodev.vic.gov.au to arrange a permit prior to the commencement of any works.

Restrictions on the handling and movement of giant pine scale host materials are in place to try to limit the spread of this pest.

Please refer to the FAQ – What is a Restricted Area?

To avoid the spread of giant pine scale please do not touch, move or collect any samples or parts of infested trees including mulch, pine cones and needles.

There are currently no technically feasible eradication options available for giant pine scale across Victoria.

How do I know if I have an infestation of giant pine scale?

If you have an infestation of giant pine scale you would have been informed by Agriculture Victoria and received a visit from an Authorised Officer who would have tagged any infested trees with a red tree tag.

If you suspect there is giant pine scale on any trees on your property that have not already been tagged by Agriculture Victoria.

Please refer to the FAQ - How do I report detections of giant pine scale?

I have coloured tags on my trees. Will Agriculture Victoria remove them?

Agriculture Victoria will not be visiting properties to remove these tree tags. Please leave the tree tags in place, as they may assist with any future surveillance.

What does the future state of giant pine scale look like?

The predicted distribution of giant pine scale in Australia is unknown, however it is likely that as populations increase, the pest will continue to spread, impacting on communities and the softwood plantation industry.

In Victoria infestations of giant pine scale have been found on host trees of all ages. The average time of infestation to host tree death is unknown.

In large populations, giant pine scale can cause gradual dehydration, leading to dieback of branches, which will eventually kill the tree. If you have giant pine scale on your property, you should be prepared for these trees to eventually die.

What is a transition to management plan?

A transition to management plan will identify and establish sustainable ongoing management arrangements that will aim to mitigate the impact of giant pine scale on urban communities and softwood plantation industries.

Agriculture Victoria, The Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia and the Australian Forest Products Association will work together to develop the plan in consultation with affected stakeholders. The plan will be approved by the Consultative Committee for Emergency Plant Pests and the National Management Group.

Can I contribute to the development of the transition to management plan?

Agriculture Victoria will work with affected stakeholders on the development of a transition to management plan. If you have any questions or suggestions please email gpsproject.manager@ecodev.vic.gov.au

What is a Restricted Area?

Restrictions on the handling and movement of giant pine scale host materials are in place to limit the spread of this pest.

In accordance with the *Plant Biosecurity Act 2010*, a Restricted Area for the management of giant pine scale has been declared.

Declaration of a Restricted Area means that giant pine scale host material must not be removed from the area without a permit. Host material includes plant roots and leaves, mulch, woodchip, soil or any equipment that has been in contact with a host plant or host material.

The Restricted Area prohibits:

- the movement of giant pine scale host material (including wood chips, mulch, branches, cones and needles of pine, fir and spruce trees, and any earth material or used equipment associated with giant pine scale host trees) from the Restricted Area without a permit;
- the pruning or destruction of giant pine scale host trees within the Restricted Area without a permit.

The Restricted Area will be reassessed during the development of the transition to management plan.

How do I know whether my property is in the Restricted Area?

The Restricted Area includes suburbs within the municipalities of Monash, Casey, Yarra Ranges, Cardinia, Knox, Stonnington, Glen Eira, Boroondara, Kingston, Whitehorse, and Greater Dandenong. Besides an infestation in Tyabb on the Mornington Peninsula, giant pine scale has only been found in these areas in Victoria.

An interactive web based application has been developed for property owners and industry to determine whether they are located within the Restricted Area. Visit www.vic.gov.au/giantpinescale. Enter your address into the search bar and your property to see if your property is included in the Restricted Area.

What are my responsibilities?

While the transition to management approach is being developed, restrictions on the handling and movement of giant pine scale host materials will remain in place to try to limit the spread of this pest.

To avoid the spread of giant pine scale please do not touch, move or collect any samples or parts of infested trees including mulch, pine cones and needles.

Should you need to prune or destroy any host trees located on your property, please contact Agriculture Victoria on 136 186 or email gpsproject.manager@ecodev.vic.gov.au to arrange a permit prior to the commencement of any works.

What has Agriculture Victoria been doing about Giant Pine Scale?

Since January 2015, Agriculture Victoria has been conducting a response to protect Australia's \$1.16 billion softwood plantation industry from the threat of giant pine scale.

Agriculture Victoria has inspected over 75,000 host trees in the south east suburbs of Melbourne, and many more across Victoria. During the response, infested trees in Victoria were treated with the insecticide imidacloprid but the chemical injection treatment did not work as effectively as expected and live scale insects remain on infested trees.

Agriculture Victoria has undertaken extensive tracing investigations to determine the spread of giant pine scale and implemented movement restrictions and compliance monitoring activities to reduce the further spread of giant pine scale.

How do I report detections of giant pine scale?

If you suspect there is giant pine scale on any trees on your property that have not already been tagged by Agriculture Victoria, please report the detection to Agriculture Victoria by:

- Phoning the Customer Service Centre on 136 186, or,
- Emailing photos of the suspected pest, together with a contact phone number and the pest's location to plant.protection@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, please telephone Agriculture Victoria on 136 186.

This document is also available as a PDF at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au – search for giant pine scale.