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Scouting tips - using phenological indicators

Bloom times of specific 'indicator plants' are mentioned throughout the insect section as guidelines to use for scouting for vulnerable stages of pest insects. A phenological indicator plant provides a link between the occurrence of a distinct, easily recognizable biological event such as first bloom or full bloom of a flowering plant with a specific stage of insect development that occurs during the same time period.

Scouting is a costly and labor-intensive operation, requiring accurate tools to make hours invested in scouting more productive. Using indicator plants to time pest development indicators can improve the accuracy and cost-efficiency of scouting. Accurate timing of treatments can reduce the quantities of pesticide needed for control and allow for the effective use of narrow spectrum products and non-chemical controls.

Suggested reading: *Coincide-The Orton System of Pest Management*. 1989. Donald A. Orton with Thomas L. Green. 190 pages. Published by Dennis W. Jamieson, Labor of Love Conservatory, 468 S. President, Suite 103, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

Japanese tree lilac is blooming around the time that juniper scale crawlers are emerging.

