Least Toxic Solutions

• Monitor plants regularly for honeydew, sooty mold, yellowing or wilting
• Use sticky barriers to control ants in the garden — this can help control scale
• For small infestations, rub off by hand using garden gloves, a toothbrush or cotton swab dipped in alcohol
• For severe infestations, sections of plants can be pruned and discarded
• Use dormant oil during late winter, or highly refined horticultural oil during spring and summer
• Repeat applications over the course of the season; several applications will probably be necessary
• When possible, discard heavily infested ornamental plants and replant with native and adapted plant species

If You Must Use a Pesticide...

• Treat scales when in the “crawler” stage for best results
• Systemic pesticides are taken up by the plant and make its tissues and fluids toxic to the feeding scale insects. Non-systemic pesticides must be applied to all infested plant surfaces for best results, because they must come into direct contact with the insects. Never use systemic pesticides on food crops
• Avoid applying a broad spectrum pesticide — they destroy beneficial insects as well as pests
• Apply only to plants specified on the label — some formulations injure tender ornamental plants and new growth
• Mix and use according to product label and apply only recommended dosage
• Avoid overuse of chemicals — many pests have become resistant to certain pesticides

Identify before you buy
Need help diagnosing a plant problem? Call the Texas A & M Agrilife Extension @ 854-9600 and ask for the Master Gardener desk or email them at travismg@ag.tamu.edu

If you must use a pesticide…
- Use the least toxic pesticide first
- Read and follow label directions
Think least toxic!

If you have unwanted or banned chemicals (Dursban or Dazio-
non) in your garage, please take them for safe disposal to a house-
hold hazardous waste facility. In Austin call (512) 974-4343
for information.

why grow green?

The Grow Green program is based on Integrated Pest
Management (IPM) principles that encourage the LEAST TOXIC approach
to pesticide and fertilizer use. The goal is to reduce the amount of landscape
chemicals that degrade water quality when they run off into waterways or leach
into our groundwater.

Grow Green is a partnership between the City of Austin Watershed Protec-
tion Department and Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Call 974-2550
or 854-9600 for more information or visit our website at
www.growgreen.org