

INDUSTRY NOTICE

20 September 2024

GRAPEVINE SCALE BIOLOGY AND MONITORING IN AUSTRALIAN VINEYARDS

This is a project to survey the populations of scale across Australian vineyards. The project is calling for photographs to be taken and sent to researchers to determine participation in this project. This is not a request for sending in samples. The project team will be in touch with sample collection details if it warrants.

BACKGROUND

As part of a coordinated effort to enhance understanding and management of scale insect populations across grape growing regions across Australia, we request your assistance in submitting photographs for accurate identification.

There are many different populations of broadly grouped grapevine scale that live in Australian vineyards and this study aims to identify the populations and geographic differences within scale insect species.

Scale insects are a persistent issue across various crops and plants, and timely identification is critical for effective pest management strategies. To better address this, we aim to gather representative samples from different regions and crops to ensure accurate identification and classification.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

All vineyard owners and managers across Australia can, and are strongly encouraged to, participate in this survey.

Assess your grapevines for scale insects. This is typically done by peeling the bark back to reveal browned off adults and over-wintering egg masses. Smaller juvenile scale might also be seen.

We kindly ask all industry partners, growers, researchers, and pest management professionals to collect scale insect photographs and send them to David Logan at the University of Adelaide/SARDI via email: Grapevinescale@gmail.com, along with your contact details (name, best phone number, email) and growing region, for project participation. David will assess the images and respond with confirmation of acceptance in the project, or if numerous similar images have been collected from your region, decline your participation and no further work is needed.

IMAGE COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

WHEN TO COLLECT

Please gather images of scale insects from infested plants during your regular field inspections, noting precisely where and when images were collected. This can be greatly assisted with 'location details' activated on your smart phone to capture the information within the image attributes.

As the period of best collection is from now until early October, growers are asked to collect the images, send them for review and if chosen, return to the same location to collect samples.

IMAGE REQUIREMENTS

Include **clear** images of both adult and immature stages if possible. Try to get close to the scale to collect images. If not in direct sunlight, please use the camera flash to assist with lighting. Scale will move to avoid high light conditions, so please have cameras ready and act quickly. See the image below courtesy of Jenny Venus for an example.



If possible, avoid taking wide angle images where researchers will need to hunt the full image for where scale may be seen. If growers have the capacity to circle where scale are in the image, this is helpful.

Scale images must be taken before scale brown off, so scale insects will typically be translucent to pale in colour and smaller than mature adults.

IMAGE INFORMATION

Please email images to the following address:

- Grapevinescale@gmail.com

Please include:

- Your name

- The region the photograph(s) were taken in or the nearest town
- A daytime telephone/mobile number

Please avoid emailing poor resolution images (i.e. out of focus) and try to keep image size high.

DEADLINE

We kindly request that images be submitted by **30 September 2024**, to allow for timely image analysis and project participation response.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information such as whether the block has a history of scale problems and photographs of the grapevine, if available, would be highly appreciated.

All images and information shared will be treated confidentially and not shared outside of the project team such as with contracted wineries, consultants or other growers.

The project is **not** expected to conduct a similar survey in subsequent seasons.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The collected samples will be used to confirm species identification, monitor for any new or invasive species, and aid in the development of targeted pest management strategies. The results will be shared with participants and used to guide industry-wide best practices.

We greatly appreciate your participation in this important effort. By working together, we can improve pest control outcomes and reduce the impact of scale insects in vineyards.

If you have any questions or need further assistance with sample collection or shipment, please do not hesitate to contact David Logan at the email above.

Thank you for your collaboration and support.

SCALE SAMPLES AND BIOSECURITY

If participating in the survey, you will be sent a collection kit with advice on how to collect scale insects and a return mailing box to send samples to. David will advise of simple measures to send in samples while maintaining biosecurity.