

UC Pest Management Guidelines

AVOCADO SOFT SCALES

Scientific Names:

Black scale: *Saissetia oleae*

Brown soft scale: *Coccus
hesperidum*

European fruit lecanium: *Parthenolecanium corni*

Hemispherical scale: *Saissetia coffeae*

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PEST

[Soft scales](#) extract sap from the foliage and excrete large quantities of honeydew, supporting sooty-mold fungus. [Crawlers](#) typically appear from under the mother scale in spring before settling on leaves. Rarely do they appear on fruit.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

All the soft scales are quite effectively controlled by parasites and predators, and as a result, are rarely seen in avocado orchards. If one of these scales is present, Argentine ant will usually be observed in the vicinity. [Good ant control](#) will increase parasitism of the scales.

PUBLICATION



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Insects and Mites

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