Vanda Orchid Scale
damange to *Vanda* Miss Joaquim

Vanda Orchid Scale

Common Name: Vanda Orchid Scale
Scientific Name: *Genaparlatoria pseudaspidiotus* (Lindinger), Diaspididae

Vanda orchid scale is classified as an armored scale and is a serious and persistent pest of orchids. It is frequently intercepted at quarantine inspection stations in the continental United States on orchid shipments from Asia. On Guam, it is common on *Vanda* Miss Joaquim.

Armored scales secrete a hardened shield over their body. The shields are flat and circular or pear-shaped. This armored scale is small and is light brown. Large numbers of scale insects can often be found in the internode covered by the leaf sheath, but a few can be found on all parts of the stems and leaves. Infestation by this scale causes dark patches on the stems and leaves due to the death of the tissue. This small scale is difficult to recognize by casual observation in the early stages of infestation. The females produce young scales that are known as crawlers. The crawlers move to different locations on the plant. The crawlers can also be dispersed by wind to healthy plants. Once the crawlers begin to feed they remain permanently at that location for the rest of their lives. As the crawlers grow they cover themselves with a waxy hard covering.

Control:

1. Use good sanitation practices. Carefully inspect new plants to be sure that they are free of this pest.
2. Treat the plants as soon as the scale problem is recognized. Consult with an Agricultural Extension Agent for the chemicals registered and the rate and frequency of applications. The control of the scale may require frequent spraying. You can contact an agent by calling 734-2575, 734-2579, 734-2518 or 734-4753.

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