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## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **PINYON NEEDLE SCALE EGGS HAVE ALREADY BEEN LAID IN THE PAYSON AREA**

Payson, Arizona, 16 March 2015 —Due to the very warm temperatures experienced recently, this complex native insect is already active throughout the Payson area. Female pinyon needle scales have emerged from the stage on the needles and have laid their eggs. Their life cycle is about a month ahead of schedule.

Brown needles toward the back of the branch dotted with the remnants of the scale are very noticeable on infested pinyon pines and may be mistaken for drought. The insect was first detected in Payson in 2007 on the southeast side of town, and has continued to spread widely throughout the area.

Infested pinyon pines can be seen in the Round Valley area, Elk Ridge, Rim View Estates, Trailwood, Swiss Village, Alpine Heights, Rodeo Ranches and Green Valley Estates in Payson. They can also be found along the western boundary of Beaver Valley Estates off Houston-Mesa Road. An estimated 4000 acres have been infested.

**It is very important that homeowners in these areas treat their pinyon pines as soon as possible before the eggs hatch, reinfest their trees and spread to other communities.**

The egg masses are located at the base of small pinyons and look like dirty cotton lint. On larger trees they can be found at the base and at branch junctures and on the side of larger branches. These eggs should be collected and disposed of properly.

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Control of this stage of the insect on larger trees involves:

Step 1: Washing the eggs off branches and trunk with a garden hose equipped with a high pressure nozzle and allowing eggs and litter one to two days to dry.

Step 2: Raking eggs, litter and debris out from under the tree.

Step 3: Disposing of the eggs in plastic garbage bags. Raking may not be practical if heavy brush, rocks or other material are present under the tree. However, washing the eggs off the tree is still recommended.

**Removal of the eggs from your pinyon pines will be simplified if you have already treated your vegetation for fire prevention reasons.**

Fire prevention treatment information: <http://www.firewise.org/usa-recognition-program.aspx>

If the warm temperatures continue, consider slow, deep, and infrequent watering of your infested pinyon pines after the soil dries out (unless there are local water restrictions). Utilize a properly installed and maintained drip system or a soaker hose placed around the dripline of the tree. Continue watering until significant precipitation occurs.

Also refer to the following Cooperative Extension brochure for proper watering of your trees: <http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/water/az1298.pdf>.

For further information about this insect, contact: Bob Celaya, Forest Health Specialist, Office of the State Forester at (602) 771-1415 in Phoenix: [BobCelaya@azsf.gov](mailto:BobCelaya@azsf.gov) or John Richardson, Forest Program Coordinator at 602-771-1420 [JohnRichardson@azsf.gov](mailto:JohnRichardson@azsf.gov) or Chris Erickson, Forest Program Specialist at 602-771-1407 [ChrisErickson@azsf.gov](mailto:ChrisErickson@azsf.gov)

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