Bloom times of specific ‘indicator plants’ are mentioned throughout the insect section as guidelines to use for scouting for vulnerable stages of pest insects. A phenological indicator plant provides a link between the occurrence of a distinct, easily recognizable biological event such as first bloom or full bloom of a flowering plant with a specific stage of insect development that occurs during the same time period.

Scouting is a costly and labor-intensive operation, requiring accurate tools to make hours invested in scouting more productive. Using indicator plants to time pest development indicators can improve the accuracy and cost-efficiency of scouting. Accurate timing of treatments can reduce the quantities of pesticide needed for control and allow for the effective use of narrow spectrum products and non-chemical controls.


Japanese tree lilac is blooming around the time that juniper scale crawlers are emerging.