Insect Pests of Evergreen Trees

Mark Harrell
*Nebraska Forest Service, University of Nebraska*

Rachel Allison
*Nebraska Forest Service, University of Nebraska, rachel.allison@unl.edu*

Laurie Stepanek
*Nebraska Forest Service, University of Nebraska, lstepanek2@unl.edu*

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Harrell, Mark; Allison, Rachel; and Stepanek, Laurie, "Insect Pests of Evergreen Trees" (2009). *Publications, etc. -- Nebraska Forest Service*. 48.

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Insect Pests of Evergreen Trees

**Zimmerman pine moth**

Identification
- On pines—mostly ponderosa, Austrian and Scotch.
- Branches are broken or dead.
- Top of the tree may be broken or dead.
- Reddish or yellowish sticky masses of pitch (resin) are present on the trunk or branches.

Control
- Spray bark with a drenching spray of permethrin (High Yield 38 Plus, Astro) or bifenthrin (OnyxPro)* in the second week of April and second week of August.
- Spray bark with dimethoate* before the end of April, but less effective than the sprays above.
- Remove heavily infested trees.

**Ips bark beetles**

Identification
- On pines and spruces.
- Many holes about 1/16-inch in diameter are present in the bark.
- Bark may be loose and have tunnels and frass (like sawdust) inside next to the wood.

Control
- Spray bark of trunk with carbaryl (Sevin), permethrin (Hi-Yield 38 Plus, Astro), or bifenthrin (OnyxPro)* in April, after injury by fire or when freshly cut logs are brought near trees.

* Trade names are examples of available products. No endorsement is implied. Always follow pesticide label instructions.

Mark Harrell, Rachel Allison, and Laurie Stepanek
Nebraska Forest Service, University of Nebraska
More information: www.nfs.unl.edu

Photo credits
- Spruce needle miner #2: Linnea Gillman, USDA Forest Service, www.forestryimages.org
- Spider mites #1: David Keith, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Aphids: David Shefler, Ohio State University

**Pine tip moth**

Identification
- On pines—mostly ponderosa.
- Dead needles are present at the shoot tip.
- Bud and shoot tip are hollow and may have a small caterpillar inside.

Control
- Spray foliage with acephate (Orthene), spinosad (Conserve), carbaryl (Sevin), permethrin (Hi-Yield 38 Plus, Astro), bifenthrin (Talstar), cyfluthrin (Tempo), tebufenozide (Confirm, Mimic), or dimethoate* in the third week of May and the first week of July.

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FH04-2009
**Spruce spider mite**

**Identification**
- On spruce, juniper, pine and other conifers.
- Yellow speckling appears on needles—more common around the base of the needle and on older needles.
- Damage usually appears in early summer.
- Heavily damaged needles turn reddish brown and fall off.

**Control**
- Tiny mites look like moving dots on white paper. Hold paper under branch and strike branch to dislodge mites.
- Mites are present April to May and September to October, not in the summer months.

**Spruce needleminer**

**Identification**
- On Colorado blue spruce, Norway spruce and white spruce (including Black Hills spruce).
- Clusters of dead needles are webbed together.
- Dead needles have a hole at the base.

**Control**
- Spray foliage with carbaryl (Sevin)* when the new damage is first noticed (June).

**Bagworm**

**Identification**
- On reedcedar, juniper, spruce and pine.
- Foliage is brown or missing.
- Bags covered with dead foliage and up to 2 inches in length hang from branches.

**Control**
- Spray foliage with Bacillus thuringiensis (Dipel, Thuricide), spinosad (Conserve), permethrin (High Yield 38 Plus, Astro), tebufenozide (Confirm, Mimic), carbaryl (Sevin), acephate (Orthene), malathion, deltamethrin (DeltaGard) or cyfluthrin (Tempo)* when small bags appear (late May to June).
- For small trees, remove and destroy the bags.

**Tussock moths**

**Identification**
- On pine—often widespread.
- Needles are missing or chewed.
- Caterpillars are present.

**Control**
- If needed, spray with Bacillus thuringiensis* or other product labeled for caterpillars on pine.

**Aphids**

**Identification**
- Mostly on spruce and pine.
- Insects are present, usually in groups.
- Shiny sticky material (honeydew) or dark material (sooty mold) may be present on foliage or objects below.

**Control**
- Reduce applications of nitrogen fertilizers.
- Reduce applications of insecticides for other pests, which could trigger an aphid outbreak.
- Spray with growing season oil (All Seasons, Volck), insecticidal soap (Safer, Concern), permethrin (High Yield 38 Plus, Astro), imidacloprid (Merit), malathion, acephate (Orthene), cyfluthrin (Tempo), or deltamethrin (DeltaGard)* as aphids appear (May through September) or apply a soil treatment with imidacloprid (Merit)* prior to infestation if a serious infestation is expected. The soil treatment has a 60-day delay.

**Pine needle scale**

**Identification**
- Mostly on spruce and pine.
- White scales are present on needles.
- Needles may turn yellow then brown.

**Control**
- Spray with growing season oil (All Seasons, Volck), insecticidal soap (Safer, Concern), acephate (Orthene), permethrin (Eight), malathion, bifenthrin (Talstar) or deltamethrin (DeltaGard)* when eggs hatch and red crawler stage appears (late May to early June and again in July). Repeat in 7 to 10 days unless using oil.