INSECT PESTS OF EVERGREENS

Success in growing evergreen trees and shrubs often depends upon how you recognize and cope with insect pests that attack them.

This circular presents the latest information on controlling the main pests of evergreens in North Dakota.

Insect pests are generally most severe on foundation plantings and younger trees. Watch for evergreen pests throughout the entire growing season.

SPRUCE MITE or EVERGREEN RED SPIDER MITE

Plants Attacked: Arborvitae, pines, juniper and spruce.

Type of Injury:

The mites overwinter in the egg stage. They appear early in the spring after the plants begin to grow. Young mites are pale-green to yellow and are barely visible to the unaided eye. The adults are dark green.

Mites suck the sap from the plant, causing the needles to turn brown and die. Often there will be a fine webbing over the needles. Infestations are usually most severe during dry, hot summer months.

To detect mite infestations, hold a white paper under a branch or twig, then sharply rap the needles. The mites will fall to the paper and can be seen.

Control: summer spray

Diazinon: Mix 1 quart 25 percent emulsifiable concentrate in 100 gallons of water or 2 teaspoonsful in 1 gallon of water. . . . . OR

Malathion: Mix 2 pints 57 percent emulsifiable concentrate in 100 gallons of water or 2 teaspoonsful in 1 gallon of water.

You can keep mites under control by thoroughly hosing the trees and shrubs with water every week.
SPRUCE NEEDLE MINER

Plants Attacked: **Colorado Blue Spruce**

Type of Injury:

Adult moths are active in June, laying eggs on the needles of spruce. The larvae feed actively, starting in late June and until frost. They overwinter as partly grown larvae in the infested needles and resume feeding in early spring until about mid-May when pupation takes place.

A group of dead needles webbed together on the twigs is usually a good sign that the needle miner is at work. The damage looks similar to that caused by the spider mite except that you also will see a sawdust-like material in addition to the webbing.

Control:

Infested needles may be hosed out with water and burned. In late June apply the following spray followed by a second application in a week to ten days:

Malathion at the rate of 2 pints 57 percent emulsifiable concentrate in 100 gallons of water or 2 teaspoonsful in 1 gallon of water.

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SPRUCE BUDWORM

Plants Attacked: **Spruce**

Type of Injury:

Spruce budworms are dark colored with yellow spines and black shiny heads. They bore into the opening buds and later cut the needles and web them together. The worms become active in the spring when the buds are swelling and they feed until full grown.

Control:

In mid to late May or as soon as spruce buds begin to open apply the following spray:

Malathion at the rate of 2 pints 57 percent emulsifiable concentrate in 100 gallons of water or 2 teaspoonsful in 1 gallon of water.

PINE NEEDLE SCALE

Plants Attacked: **Pine, spruce**

Type of Injury:

Scale overwinters in the egg stage. The eggs hatch in late May or June and the young scales (crawlers) feed for a short time before they settle down and secrete a whitish scale over their bodies. Infestations of scale insects may cause a weakening, or death, of the tree or shrub, especially younger trees.

Needles on infested trees are somewhat yellowed with the elongate, whitish scales up to 1/8-inch long attached. At first glance the scale insects look like spattered white paint.

Control: dormant spray

Mix 1 part liquid lime sulfur to 9 parts water. Spray the trees and shrubs only when the weather is mild and when danger of frost is past. Do not spray when temperatures are above 80°F. Lime sulfur may darken white paint when accidentally sprayed on buildings.

summer spray

Malathion: Mix 2 pints 57 percent emulsifiable concentrate in 100 gallons water or 2 teaspoonsful in 1 gallon water. Spray the trees and shrubs in late May or June--about the time the lilacs are in bloom. Follow with second treatment in about 10 days.

Diazinon: Mix 1 quart 25 percent emulsifiable concentrate in 100 gallons water or 2 teaspoonsful in 1 gallon water.