



EASTERN IDAHO

PEST ALERT

BANNOCK, BINGHAM, BONNEVILLE, CASSIA, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, AND MADISON COUNTIES

INSIDE THE ISSUE



SAD

PG 2



BAD

PG 2



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

PG 4



CODLING MOTH

Next Year



FIREBLIGHT

PG 3

Final Issue of 2022

This is the final issue of the Eastern Idaho Pest Alert for 2022. The 2023 publications should start around April 1. Enjoy your winter and keep in touch with the Idaho Home Garden Tips classes that will probably start to ramp up in February.

Spruce Tree Losing Needles?

By Ron Patterson, Extension Educator

Most evergreens are conifers, but not all. Most conifers are evergreen, but not all. The most notable deciduous conifers are the larch trees, dawn redwood and baldcypress. The ginkgo is also a deciduous conifer.

I have received quite a few calls and emails this fall about concern over the needle drop from evergreen trees—mostly spruce and some pines. While needle drop can be an indicator of an underlying problem, none of the site visits I made showed any indication of disease or insect problems. We expect deciduous trees to drop their leaves every year. Evergreens also shed their needles, their older needles, this time of year.

What we really need to worry about is premature needle drop. Pine trees usually lose needles that have completed their third or fourth summer on the tree. If all we see are needles from the current season, we should probably check it out.

Spruce trees usually hold onto their needles 3 – 5 years depending on the species, with most being about five years. Firs, Douglas firs and hemlocks last 3 – 4 years.

Another concern people is that there have been entire branches that have dropped their needles. All of them that I looked at this fall were small, mostly-interior branches that the tree is cutting off. If the branch is not contributing to the growth of the tree it will die.

The observations of my visits have been the new growth is very healthy looking. The dropping needles have been explainable with the natural biology of the tree.

When should you be concerned about your spruce trees?

If the tree is dying from the top down the most likely culprit is the ips beetle. By the time you see the damage it has been done.

If all but the current-year needles have fallen off.

If the current season needles have dark bands around them. Current year needles should have an even color from bottom to top.

Weather can make the problem seem worse. Keep your spruce trees healthy with proper irrigation. It's important to not have the ground saturated going into winter, but it is also a good practice to give your trees a good soaking before the ground freezes to help them make it through our winter and spring winds.



Older needles will become dull, but may persist for several years.



Entire interior branches may die as they become unproductive.



Current season needles should have a good, healthy color.

Fire Blight

At this point, prune out any new fire blight strikes as they happen. Don't wait until fall or wintertime. Remember to disinfect your tools between each cut.

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PEST ALERT

UPCOMING EVENTS

****IF YOU MISSED OUT ON ANY CLASS, DON'T MISS OUT ON THE RECORDING TOO! JUST EMAIL AND ASK FOR THE RECORDING OF ANY GARDEN TIPS CLASS.**

OCTOBER 25 IDAHO HOME GARDEN TIPS

WINTER PROTECTIONS OF ROSES, GRAPES, CANE BERRIES ETC.

BRACKEN HENDERSON, EXTENSION EDUCATOR

7:30 PM PLANT TALK

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM REGISTRATION

BEGINNING AFTER THANKSGIVING FOR 2023

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN DOING THE MASTER GARDENER CLASSES AND/OR PROGRAM EMAIL LENA, LALLEN@UIDAHO.EDU, FOR MORE INFORMATION!!

****IF YOU'VE MISSED OUT ON PAST PEST ALERTS OR WANT TO REFRESH ON PAST ARTICLES, YOU CAN FIND THEM HERE:**

[HTTPS://WWW.UIDAHO.EDU/EXTENSION/COUNTY/BONNEVILLE/HORTICULTURE/PEST-ALERT](https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/county/bonneville/horticulture/pest-alert)

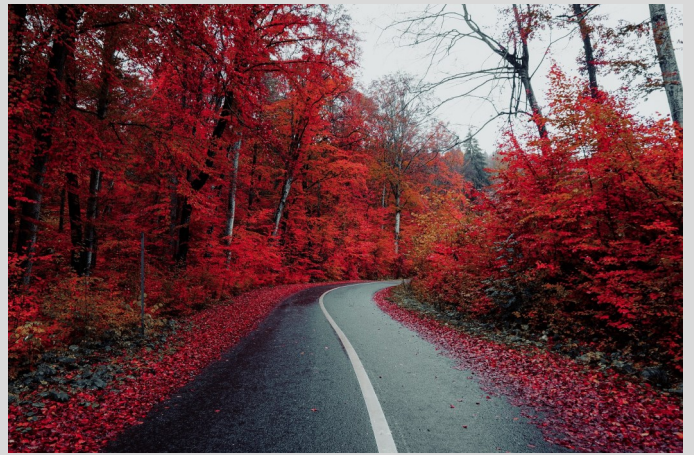


PHOTO OF THE WEEK: Photo credit: Alex M.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK:

We've certainly had a beautiful showing of fall color this year as fall continues to hold on. Enjoy it as much as you can before we get possible snow this weekend!!

Enjoy your winter too. Stay nice and cozy while you plan your gardening adventures for next year!

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