

Conifer Disease Quick Reference

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Root and Crown Rots

Hosts: All conifers

Pathogens: Pythium spp., Phytophthora spp.,
Rhizoctonia solani, Fusarium spp.,
Cylindrocarpon spp.

For more information see: UW Garden Facts XHT1070



Rhizosphaera Needle Cast

Hosts: Colorado blue spruce, other spruces, many other conifers

Pathogen: Rhizosphaera kalkhoffii

For more information see: UW Garden Facts XHT1006
UW-Extension Bulletin A2640



Cytospora Canker

Host: Colorado blue spruce, other spruces

Pathogen: Leucocytospora kunzei

For more information see: UW Garden Facts XHT1003
UW-Extension Bulletin A2639



Spruce Needle Drop

Hosts: Spruces

Pathogen: Unknown (thought possibly to be
Setomelannoma holmii)



“Cedar-Apple” Rust

Hosts: Junipers

Apple, crabapple, hawthorn, quince

Pathogen: Gymnosporangium spp.

For more information see: UW Garden Facts XHT1009a/b
UW-Extension Bulletin A2598



Phomopsis Tip Blight

Host: Junipers

Pathogen: Phomopsis juniperovora

For more information see: UW Garden Facts XHT1099



Diplodia Tip Blight

Hosts: Pines (Austrian, red, jack, Scots, mugo), many other conifers

Pathogen: Diplodia pinea

For more information see: UW Garden Facts XHT1010
UW-Extension Bulletin A3643



Dothistroma Needle Blight

Hosts: Pines (Austrian, red, Scots, mugo, ponderosa, and others)

Pathogen: Dothistroma pini

For more information see: UW Garden Facts XHT1078
UW-Extension Bulletin A2620



Drought Stress

Hosts: All conifers

Cause: Insufficient water



Winter Injury

Hosts: All conifers, particularly yews and junipers

Cause: Dehydration over the winter



Herbicide Damage

Hosts: All conifers

Cause: Exposure to a growth regulator herbicide such as 2,4-D or dicamba

For more information see: UW Garden Facts XHT1004
UW-Extension Bulletin A3286

For more information on conifer diseases: See University of Wisconsin Garden Facts XHT1003, XHT1004, XHT1006, XHT1009a, XHT1009b, XHT1010, XHT1070, XHT1078, XHT1099, XHT1118 or XHT1119, UW-Extension Bulletins A2598, A2620, A2639, A2640, A3286, or A3643, or contact your county Extension agent.