

# Pest Alert

FOREST SERVICE--U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
IN COOPERATION WITH YOUR STATE AGENCY

## DIPLODIA TIP BLIGHT AND CANKER OF PINES



Discoloration under pitch canker



Fruiting bodies on needles



Pockets of infected trees

The fungus *Diplodia pinea* can cause serious damage to Austrian, ponderosa, red, Scots, mugo, jack, and white pine. Although it is considered a weak pathogen, it may successfully attack and kill trees. It may be more serious on trees growing out of their natural range or stressed by adverse climatic conditions or air pollution. Infection can occur as a result of hail or snow damage, insect wounds, and wounds caused by shearing Christmas trees.

The most common symptom of this disease is stunting and subsequent browning of current year shoots and needles in May and June. Fully developed shoots may also be killed. Pockets of infected trees are typical in windbreaks. In more severe cases, pitchy cankers may form under the bark of twigs or the main stem, causing individual branches or the entire tree to turn brown and die. Small black fungus fruiting bodies may be found on branches, stems, needles, and cones.



Tip mortality

Report damage to: