

VINELAND

TREE CARE

Diplodia Shoot Blight

Diplodia pinea, *D. scrobiculata*

HOSTS: Austrian Pine (*Pinus nigra*), Ponderosa Pine (*P. ponderosa*), Scots Pine (*P. sylvestris*), Red Pine (*P. resinosa*), and Jack Pine (*P. banksiana*)



CO-OCCURRING ISSUES/ LOOK-ALIKES: Dothistroma Needle Blight, Pine Needle Scale, Salt Damage

DISEASE CYCLE:

- Fungal spores spread from previous infections to new growth in the spring as shoots are expanding.
- If trees are unstressed and healthy, infection stops with killing new shoots. Trees generally recover quickly.
- If trees are stressed, the fungus will spread into mature tissue. This causes cankers and whole branch death, resulting in a slow decline of the tree.
- Infections can remain dormant for years, flaring up when trees become stressed.

CONTROL:

Chemical -

- 3 spray applications of chlorothalonil. First application just before bud break, 2 additional applications at 14 day intervals.

Cultural -

- Ensure irrigation is not spraying foliage.
- Mulch trees to conserve soil moisture, and water trees in dry conditions.
- Prune out infected tissue during dry conditions. Do not prune susceptible pines in wet conditions, as new wounds are easily infected.
- Do not fertilize infected trees, as increased soil nitrogen has been linked to increased disease severity.

RESULTS/ PROGNOSIS/ EXPECTATION MANAGEMENT:

- Spray applications are very effective when timed appropriately
- If a tree is heavily infected, it can take a couple years for the tree to re-grow enough foliage to look healthy again. Assuming there isn't severe branch death, recovery is very likely.

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