



FALL NEEDLE DROP

Have you noticed evergreen trees with needles that are changing color, or turning brown?

Evergreens change color and drop needles in the fall just as deciduous tree do. Older needles on the inside may turn yellow, brown or sometimes reddish tan before they drop from the tree. This natural process is often so subtle that it goes unnoticed, other times it can be very dramatic and showy causing alarm to concerned homeowners.

Some pine trees only hold their needles for only two years, while some spruce trees may hold their needles for up to seven years. Arborvitae have scale-like needles covering a branchlet and will shed the entire oldest branchlets (that is why brown needles may appear on the outside of the tree as well as close to the trunk).

Fall needle drop is a natural occurrence and does NOT signify a disease or insect infestation. However, fall needle drop may be intensified in evergreen trees that are experiencing stress. Stress factors include drought, root damage, herbicide injury, disease or insect damage.