

Spruce needle rust

fungus affects area yard trees

Attacks

- Current year needles on blue spruce, mainly, but also white and black spruce
- 25- 75 percent of new needles

Symptoms

- Needles turn pink or orange in summer
- Needles fall off in fall



Fungus attacks current year needles

About the fungus

- Though common some years, most years it's hard to find
- Not serious for most trees, but can be tough on newly planted trees or Christmas trees
- Fungus requires Laborador tea or leather leaf to complete its life cycle
- Spores of the spruce needle rust fungus are produced on the alternate hosts



Yard trees affected by spruce needle rust

Prevention

- Water trees regularly with a hose on the ground to thoroughly soak ground (sprinklers will keep needles moist and prone to fungus)
- Keep weeds and grass mowed around small trees so winds can dry the needles



Laborador tea is one of the hosts for the spores