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

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 Labrador tea or leather leaf to complete its life cycle
- Spores of the spruce needle rust fungus are produced on the alternate hosts

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