

Pine beetles in the City of Penticton: What can we do ?

Recognizing pine beetle injury



Pine beetles have been present in the region for many years.

The Western pine beetle and the red turpentine beetle are seen on ponderosa pines growing in lower valleys. The mountain pine beetle is more frequent on lodgepole pines growing in mountain areas.

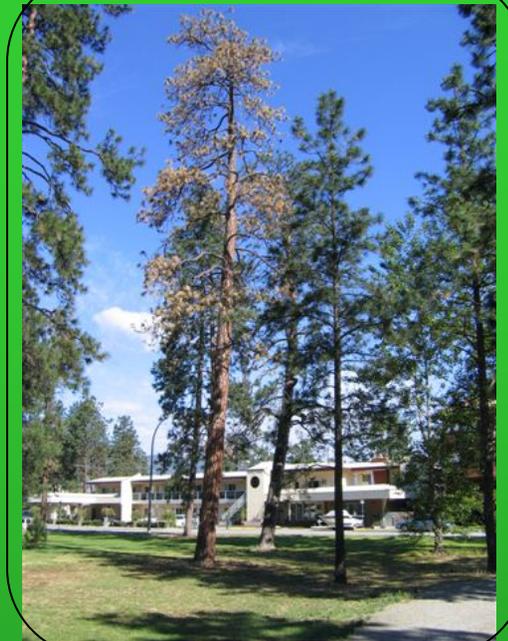
If you have a pine tree on your property, please take a moment to learn more about the pine beetles, their visible damage, and practices appropriate for your site.



As bark beetle adults enter through the bark, the tree attempts to "pitch out" the insects by flooding the gallery with sap.

The damage is visible from the outside as a circular hole, about the diameter of a pencil, mixed with sap (picture to left).

Generally, white pitch indicates the tree is healthy and fighting the bark beetle. Red pitch (sap mixed with sawdust) indicates the beetle has reached the inside wood.



About pine beetles

Pine beetles spend the winter under the bark of host trees. During spring and summer, the adults (picture to left) tunnel their way to the tree surface. They fly to near-by trees in which they dig a tunnel where eggs are laid.

The larvae excavate galleries (picture below) which cause girdling damage to the cambium and phloem layers.

A fungus introduced by the insect blocks water and nutrient vessels in the tree, in turn causing a blue stain in the wood (bottom left).



Other conditions affect pine trees and cause symptoms similar to those of pine beetle injury.

Pine shoot moth

This insect affects the new shoots of most pines, including ornamental varieties. Feeding causes discolored crooked shoots.

Western gall rust

This disease is caused by a fungus. The infection results in the formation of galls on branches and stems. Needles die past the gall, resulting in brown branch tips throughout the tree.



Practices to minimize pine beetle damage



What can you do to help?

- Ensure the trees on your property are healthy.
- Avoid heavy pruning or damage to tree roots.
- Remove trees that are weak or injured.
- Do not bring home firewood from a beetle-killed tree.
- Monitor regularly for new evidence of beetle activity.
- If pine beetle damage is seen, contact a professional.

Time to call a professional arborist or pest manager ?

- Professionals can prune unhealthy limbs, thin crowded stands, or remove infested trees.
- Professionals might employ techniques to help prevent attacks, such as pheromone pouches or screening.
- Professionals may offer additional services such as regular monitoring (visual inspection) or spraying the trees with recommended pesticides.

