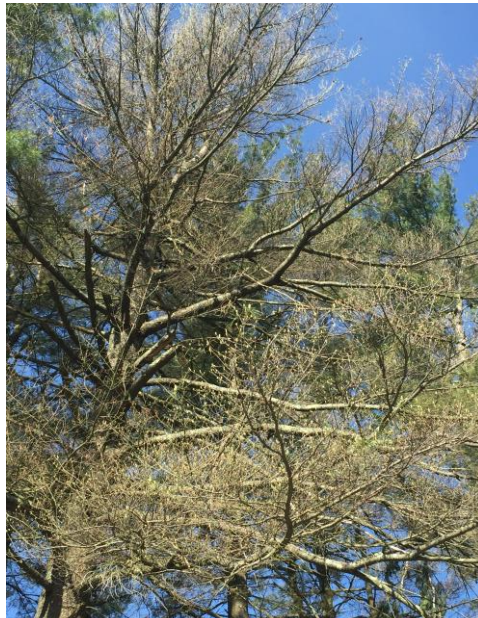




White pine needle cast and spruce needle cast is a battle we need to win!

With so many pathogens floating around like pollen, no pine is safe from disease any longer. As you may have noticed with eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), the needles have turned yellow or rust color in large and small trees. This could be due to multiple factors such as, drought, mechanical injury, salt damage and disease. These are the main contributing factors.

These factors will also help promote disease in any plant. Weak plants lose their natural ability to fight off pests, like we do when we are weak. Here is a picture of a 70 foot white pine with needle cast. Environmental factors have played a role in the onset of the disease here.



Treatment is possible through fungicide applications and routine fertilization. You can see the new growth coming out, while all the other needles have fallen off. This puts a lot of stress on the trees. Stress like this can lead to borer infestations which will ultimately kill the tree.



Spruce trees can and will get needle cast as well. They tend to lose needles from the bottom up. If your spruce is thinning out, it has needle cast and it can be treated. Blue spruce is highly susceptible to needle rust. It too can be treated. The picture below shows you what to look for when looking at the needles. This disease is slowly moving into the area.



Thank You,
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