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## SP290-O Insects: Pine Bark Adelgid

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# Insects



## Pine Bark Adelgid

*Frank A. Hale, Professor  
originally developed by Jaime Yanes, Jr., former Assistant Professor,  
and Harry E. Williams, Professor Emeritus  
Entomology and Plant Pathology*

The pine bark adelgid (known in the past as the pine bark aphid) is one of the most serious pests of nursery, ornamental and landscape eastern white pine in Tennessee. This insect occasionally attacks Scotch and Austrian pines.

The pine bark adelgid, *Pineus strobi* (Htg.) is covered with a white wax and feeds by sucking sap from the tree. Infestations are recognized by the presence of spots and patches of white cottony material on the bark of trunks and limbs, on buds or at the bases of needles. Trunks of heavily infested trees often appear to be whitewashed. This white material is often mistaken for a fungus. On older trees, the adelgid is more unsightly than injurious. Young trees, if heavily infested, become discolored, stunted or weakened and death may occur.

Adult adelgids are small, purplish to yellow and covered with white strands of wax. Nymphs (immatures) resemble adults except for their smaller size. At first, nymphs are naked and yellow. They soon darken and begin to secrete white, waxy threads. Eggs are about 1/8 inch long and a milky to light yellow-brown color.

Pine bark adelgids overwinter in all stages, though usually as immature females. Development continues in late winter and eggs are laid in the spring. Winged and wingless forms hatch from these eggs. Winged individuals migrate to other



*Pine bark adelgid infestation*



*Larry R. Barber, USDA Forest Service, [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org)*

*Steven Katovich, USDA Forest Service, [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org)*

trees and begin feeding. Wingless forms remain feeding on the tree and reproduce repeatedly. There are five or more generations per year.

## Control Measures

Spray trees with dormant oil before growth starts in the spring. Treat with oil only when temperatures will remain above 40 degrees F for 24 hours following treatment. Using a hand lens, look for white, cottony wax and the presence of active nymphs early in the growing season. Nymphs become active about mid-April. Continue to inspect trees throughout the growing season. Treat all pines in the surrounding area if any stage of this insect is seen.

For residential outdoor use: horticultural oil (various brand names), cyfluthrin plus imidacloprid (Bayer Advanced Rose & Flower Insect Killer [0.72%  $\beta$ -cyfluthrin, 0.72% imidacloprid liquid concentrate], imidacloprid Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub Insect Control [1.47% liquid concentrate]), or insecticidal soap (Safer Insecticidal Soap).

**For commercial outdoor use:** <http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/redbook/pdf/ornamentalinsects.pdf> The cottony wax will become dry and chalky if the adelgids have been killed.

### Disclaimer

This publication contains herbicide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the herbicide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific herbicide being used. The label always takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication.

Use of trade or brand names in this publication is for clarity and information; it does not imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others that may be of similar, suitable composition, nor does it guarantee or warrant the standard of the product. The author(s), the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and University of Tennessee Extension assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

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