

**Problem:** Natural Needle drop



**Plants affected:** Pines, arborvitae, spruce

**Description:** Older needles on the inside of each branch turn yellow and eventually drop. Needles on the tips of the branches are unaffected.

Evergreens do not keep their needles indefinitely but will drop them after one to several years. Various species normally keep their needles for a certain number of years. For example, Ponderosa and Scotch pines usually keep their needles for three years. However, this pattern may vary from tree to tree and year to year. Also, this process may be gradual or all the needles may turn at once. If the process is sudden, people often become very concerned about the health of these trees.

**Recommendations:** This is a natural process and so no response is needed. Remember natural needle drop only affects the needles on the inside of the tree. If the needles on the tips of branches are yellowing or individual needles are showing spots or bands, then natural needle drop is not the culprit.

**References:**

1. [Natural Needle Drop](#), University of Nebraska, Backyard Farmer
2. Woody Ornamentals, Published by Chemlawn, pg 237

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