

**Problem:** Arborvitae Fall Needle Drop



**Plants affected:** Arborvitae

**Description:** Interior foliage turns brown in the interior of the tree starting late July – early August. Needle drop tends to be worse in dry summers. The browning can be dramatic but becomes less noticeable as the affected foliage drops. New growth takes place in the fall to help replace that which was lost.

**Recommendations:** This is a natural process that does not harm the tree. Watering in the fall during dry periods can help produce new foliage that will improve the tree's appearance.

**References:**

1. [Fall Needle Drop](#), Purdue University, PPDL Picture of the Week, October 24, 2011

**Last Update:** 1/9/2018

---

Brand names appearing in this publication are for product identification purposes only. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

*“Knowledge for Life”*

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service