



**DOVE**  
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## Information

### Conifer damage – retail information

#### **Branch management**

Over the past few years and particularly during the wetter seasons we have experienced, Cypress and leyland Cypress have been subject to an increase in twig and branch dieback. This is common throughout England and Wales, but is more rare in Scotland. The dieback is due in the main to a disease that is slow spreading, but does disfigure hedges and trees.

The problem is commonly caused by a canker (*Coryneum cardinale*) and can be identified by areas of dead bark, often going all the way round the stem and encrusted with resin which may still be exuding out from the damaged area. In an advanced stage the black patches may have pin sized black pimples, which are the fungal fruiting bodies, or even tiny crater-like cavities where the fruiting bodies have disintegrated. The most satisfactory approach is to remove the affected branches by cutting well below the dead bark which retards disease development. At this present stage there is no effective retail product replacement for the commercially available products containing thiophanate-methyl, other than spraying with liquid copper, which is a contact product and needs to be regularly sprayed with good coverage of the damaged areas of the tree.

#### **Aphid antics**

Conifers can often suffer aphid attacks on their needles and foliage close to the main stem in the early part of the season. *Juniperus scop.* ‘Sky Rocket’ is an excellent indicator plant and in February you can very often see small brown aphids gathering on the stem close to the main trunk. The aphids damage the needles, but they do not drop off until much later in the season when the temperatures increase and the water requirements of the plant grow beyond what they can support. Visual symptoms of a black sooty mould resulting from the honeydew excreted by the aphids are often the first indication you have the pest and by then it is often too late! Aphid control in the earlier part of the year is most effectively carried out using pyrethrin-based products or with eco-friendly products from Growing Success.

#### **Picea pains**

Red spider mites often damage *Picea abies*. These congregate amongst the upper branches and damage the needles. Applications of pyrethrin-based products in late spring early summer give the best control of this pest, which can render an otherwise elegant specimen tree into an ugly skeleton. Another, late application in August and again in September will reduce the over wintering population and give you a head start next spring.

**Use plant protection products safely. Always read the label and product information before use**

Dove Associates shall in no event be liable for any loss or damage caused by the use of products mentioned in this document

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