



## ***Needle Cast on Blue Spruce***

Needle Cast is a disease that is becoming more prevalent in Indiana landscapes. This disease has been around since the late 80's but is just now becoming a problem due to the warmer winters and climate change. The continued use of these trees is not recommended but we also know Blue Spruce are still a desirable plant for our customers. We will not be stocking any Colorado Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens glauca*) in the future. We will carry selections of *Picea pungens glauca* such as Ontario Blue (aka Baby Blue), Fat Albert and Globosa and others which are less likely to fall victim to this disease.

There is a way to decrease the risk of these plants getting this disease. This is not a guarantee just some helpful tips and practices:

- 1) Water the plants at the base only; this will decrease the amount of water that hits the branches.
- 2) Start a spray program for your customer. A rotation of 3 different chemicals 3 weeks apart starting in the middle of April will help to insure clean plants. Weather and humidity will both play a role in the overall amount of sprays that are needed and frequency.
- 3) Planting Spruce where they can dry out sooner in the morning and not allowing the irrigation systems to water them is critical.

For more information on Needle Cast visit the following websites:

<https://extension.purdue.edu/white/pages/article.aspx?intItemID=25407>

<https://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/trees-shrubs/spruce-tree-diseases/rhizosphaera-needle-cast/>

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/blue\\_spruce\\_needle\\_cast\\_disease](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/blue_spruce_needle_cast_disease)