Comparison of Pine Tip Blight and Pine Wilt: a look at hosts, environment, symptoms and control.
Kansas Department of Agriculture, 2007

- Pine tip blight is caused by a fungus. It attacks the new growth in the spring and if conditions are favorable (frequent rains) kill branches. The fungus girdles trunks by perennial cankers causing death of the tree over a period of time.
- The disease attacks primarily Austrian pines but also Scots and ponderosa.
- Control can be achieved with fungicide application and cultural methods.
- It is found almost statewide but more prevalent in central and eastern Kansas.
• Pine wilt is caused by a nematode which is vectored by the adult *Monochamus* pine sawyer beetle.
• It affects primarily Scots pine and secondly Austrian pine in Kansas. Ponderosa is thought to be resistant.
• The established range of the disease and vector is central and eastern Kansas.
• Stressed trees may attract the sawyer.
• Trees die rapidly within 6 to 12 weeks after infection. This occurs in late summer and the fall. Needles change from a light green to yellow to tan.
• The wood is dry and generally has little resin.
• Diagnosis is by cutting the branch and submitting a few 1” disks to a qualified person.
• Control is by removing and destroying the tree as soon as possible after testing.

**Figure 1.** Pinewood nematode adult male with spicule (see arrow) at posterior end.

**Figure 2.** Adult *Monochamus* beetle.

Trees die completely as opposed to tip death and slow overall decline as seen with pine tip blight. Occasional flagging may be seen.