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

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- 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.



Infected tips scattered but more near bottom and thick branching; resin flow heavy

Advanced tree decline from pine tip blight, note some green needles throughout crown and misshapen trunk from perennial cankers; resin flow heavy



Black fruiting bodies of the fungus can be seen with the aid of a hand lens embedded in tissue of needles and the back of the scales of the cones





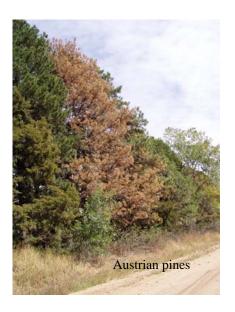
- Pine wilt is caused by a nematode which is vectored by the adult *Monochamus* pine sawyer beetle.
- It affects primarily Scots pine and secondly Austrian pine in Kansas. Ponderosa is thought to be resistant.
- The established range of the disease and vector is central and eastern Kansas.
- Stressed 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.

