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#### PROBLEMS WITH EVERGREEN BROWNING

by Stanley Rachesky Entomologist, University of Illinois

Fall is such a beautiful time of the year. If you're like me you're hoping the grass will stop growing. Many golf course superintendents are doing their fall cleanup. This gives you a great opportunity to really take a good look at your trees and shrubs and to kind of plan what you're going to do next year.

We've been receiving inquiries as to the browning of evergreen needles on many of the shrubs in the area lately. There are probably a thousand reasons why an evergreen would lose its needles. For example:

 Planting – maybe you didn't follow the directions

2. Soil - is it right for your plant?

3. Nutrient deficiencies - are they available?

4. Fertilizer - use it how and when it says!

5. Salt injury — what did you use last year to melt the snow? Did it run off near your evergreen?

6. Pruning - were you careful?

7. Shade - does your evergreen get enough sun?

8. Wounds - loss of fluid!

9. Soil drainage - did it get too much?

10. Water - did it get enough?

11. Temperature, leaf scorch, winter injury, chemical injury (pollution), gas injury, mechanical injuries, electrical injury, spider mites, disease, etc., and of course, last but not least, insects. Gall aphids, bud scale, pine needle scale, borers, bagworms, needle miners, sawflies, pine shoot moths, Zimmerman pine moths, etc., all cause evergreens to brown.

I'm sure that golf course superintendents can now see some of the problems causing evergreens to turn brown. In order to recommend a method of control, no matter what it is, positive identification of the problem must be made.

Send me in a specimen if you are having a problem.

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