

Bark Beetle infestations can be of great concern to anyone with Ponderosa Pines, Pinion Pines and any other pine tree growing in the landscape.

### Signs of Bark Beetle Problems

Early signs are needles fading from dark green to a pale green, then to straw, then to a rusty red color. Other outward signs are sap leaking out from holes in the trunk, or fine sawdust showing. The larvae stage of this beetle are the size of a grain of rice and the beetles themselves are about one quarter inch long.



### Stressed Trees Attract More Beetles

There are many contributing factors to beetle infestation. When a pine tree is stressed it lets off a turpentine odor that attracts more Bark Beetles. The triggers for tree stress are drought, damaged roots due to construction, lightning damage and a property that is overgrown.

### Keeping Trees Healthy

The number one prevention is deep watering of the tree. It is recommended to water native trees through summer once each month to a depth of 24 inches. A annual feeding with a granular plant food is highly recommended with **Watters "All Purpose Food"**.

Beneficial sprays can also be administered to the trunk of trees that protect against Bark Beetle boring. Products like **Watters "Carbaryl"** or **"38 plus Permethrin"**

works well to protect the trunk from being attracted.

### Trees in Trouble

You stand the best chance of bringing back a damaged tree by increasing the trees health and then systemically treating an insecticide through the tree. Remember any tree can pass a point of no return.

If your trees seem to be suffering from light green needles, entry holes in the bark, pitch trails, or sawdust, do the above regimen of water and feeding, but also apply an application of **"Soil Activator"**. This product promotes a stronger, vigorous root system for a robust tree able to adapt to environmental factors.

### Remove Dead Trees

Trees that have died should be cut down to reduce fire danger and the risk of a tree falling over. The brush should be chipped or hauled off and the lumber cut and split,



Thinning of trees is a good long term preventative measure. Remember to protect your trees,

- 1 - Deep, monthly irrigation through summer.
- 2 - Feed with Watters **"All Purpose Food"**.
- 3 - Spray the bark with **"Carbaryl"** or **"38 plus Permethrin"** as a way to keep beetles out of healthy trees.
- 4 - Application of systemic **"Insecticide soil drench"** through the root system for infested trees.
- 5 - Thinning trees as necessary.