



THE WEEKEND

# TREE ADVISER

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**Spruce Spider Mites on Evergreens:  
Act Now to Protect Your Tree**



If your evergreens are still looking lovely and green, that's no guarantee that they aren't being damaged. When the cool fall weather hits, usually from late September through November, spruce spider mites wake up and get busy. They love evergreens, such as spruce, arborvitae, juniper, Leyland cypress, and hemlock.

You'll start seeing yellow specks on the needles, then browning, and eventually, needles start dropping way before they should. And these mites reproduce incredibly fast. We're talking 7 to 10 generations every year, with each new generation ready to cause damage in just 10 to 20 days. If you ignore it, this small problem can turn into a major infestation before you realize it.

November is your best opportunity to stop them. Your evergreens are settling in for their winter nap, and that's exactly when horticultural oils work best. Spruce spider mites spend winter as eggs tucked onto needles and twigs. By applying horticultural oil when the tree is dormant, you'll be able to smother these eggs before they can hatch come spring. But everything has to be just right. We need temperatures between 40 and 70 degrees, dry weather in the forecast, and complete coverage of affected branches.

Our certified arborists know something most people don't: not all tiny mites are bad guys. Some are beneficial predators keeping the harmful ones in check. We can tell the difference and avoid treating trees that are already getting natural help. We'll look at your whole property and figure out which trees need attention most. Dwarf Alberta spruce tops the spider mite menu, and any trees squeezed too close together or struggling with drought are sitting ducks. One thorough treatment now wipes out the eggs waiting to hatch next spring.

[Contact Us Today!](#)

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# Clear Out Invasives Before the Holiday



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You wouldn't invite guests over for Thanksgiving dinner without tidying up first, right? Your yard deserves the same consideration, especially this time of year. November is actually the perfect time for tackling those aggressive weeds and invasive plants before they drop seeds everywhere and become next year's nightmare. Think of it as holiday prep for your yard.

Virginia creeper looks pretty climbing up walls until you realize its roots are slowly prying apart your masonry. And Queen Anne's lace might seem delicate with those white lacy flowers, but each plant shoots out 40,000 seeds that stick to everything. Your pants, your dog, and visitors walking through. Suddenly, you've got thousands of new plants. Bamboo is a whole different beast. Those roots spread shallow but wide, and once established, you're looking at years of work to reclaim your space.

Getting rid of these plants for good takes more than pulling what you see above ground. Our team knows when each species is most vulnerable to treatment. Late summer and fall are ideal because plants are moving nutrients down into their roots, which means systemic treatments go exactly where they need to. We catch Queen Anne's lace in its first year before it ever flowers. We install proper barriers for bamboo that actually work. And, most importantly, we make sure your desirable plants and structures stay safe while we eliminate the troublemakers. Getting this done now means you can enjoy the holidays without worrying about what's spreading underground while you're not looking.

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# Fall Soil Health: Creating a Foundation for Thriving Trees



When you look at a struggling tree, you're probably checking the leaves and branches for problems. That makes sense because that's what you can see. The real story, though, is happening underground, where healthy soil makes everything else possible. Strong roots, good nutrient absorption, and disease resistance all start with the soil. Fall is hands down the best time to give that soil the boost it needs before winter locks everything down.

Even after your trees drop their leaves, the roots keep working. They're still absorbing nutrients and tucking away reserves until the soil temperature drops below 40 degrees. That means treatments applied now actually get used instead of wasted. Your trees stock up on what they'll need for that first big push of growth next spring. The soil biology is still active enough to break down amendments and make nutrients available. You're also setting up the soil structure to handle all those freeze-thaw cycles winter throws at it without making compaction worse.

Summer is rough on soil in ways you don't necessarily notice. People walking across the lawn, cars pulling onto the grass during that party you hosted, heavy storms pounding everything flat. All of that compacts the soil and chokes off oxygen to the roots. The growing season itself drains nutrients as your trees work overtime through heat and drought. Pests and disease organisms are hunkering down in the soil right now, getting ready to emerge and cause problems next year. Our arborists tackle all of this with bio-stimulants that wake up beneficial microbes, aeration that breaks up compacted soil, and organic amendments that improve everything from structure to water retention.

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# Why Removing Dead Leaves Protects Your Trees from Hidden Threats



Those piles of dead leaves sitting under your trees look innocent enough. Maybe even kind of picturesque. Unfortunately, they're often hiding some serious problems. Fungal diseases, such as anthracnose, leaf spot, and powdery mildew don't just disappear when leaves fall. They settle into that leaf litter and wait out the winter. Come spring when conditions are right, they release spores that drift up and re-infect your trees. Your trees might look perfectly fine today, but the pathogens planning next year's attack are already there in the debris.

Getting those leaves cleaned up professionally does more than make your yard look tidy. You're literally breaking the disease cycle before it can start over. Leaf piles also make cozy homes for pests that will wake up hungry in spring: mites, beetles, borers. All that trapped moisture under decomposing leaves creates perfect conditions for root rot and other fungal issues. The thick layer of matted leaves can even smother your grass and create dead zones where beneficial soil organisms can't survive.

The trick is knowing what to remove and what to leave. Our certified arborists spot disease symptoms you'd never notice. We know when leaves need to go versus when they're actually beneficial as mulch. Diseased material can't just go in your home compost pile because it never gets hot enough to kill pathogens. You need sustained temperatures between 131 and 170 degrees for at least three days. We handle everything properly, assess your specific situation, and keep an eye on situations throughout the season. Catching problems early beats trying to fix them after they've taken hold.

[Contact Us Today!](#)

**Supporting Our Federal Community**

During the government shutdown, we stand with our federal workers and their families. If you're affected, please let us know! We're happy to discuss flexible scheduling or payment options to support you during this time.

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