BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS
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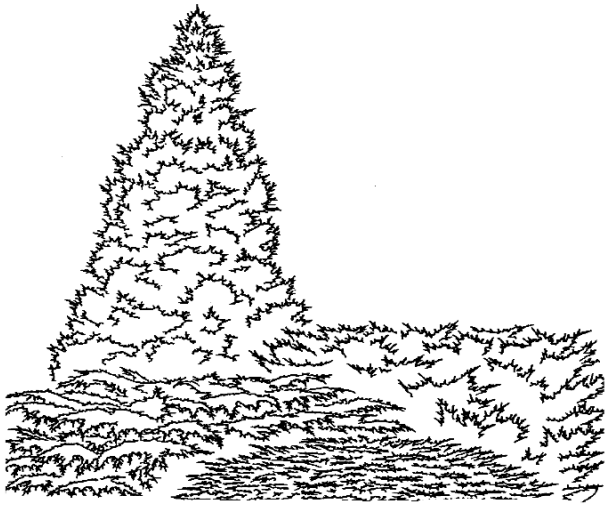
Plant Health Care Recommendations for Juniper

Junipers (*Juniperus, spp.)* are among the most versatile and hardiest landscape plants. This genus is represented by more than 50 species and hundreds of cultivated varieties. Depending on variety, Junipers can be used for screens, hedges, windbreaks, formal plantings, foundations and ground covers.



Juniper foliage can be green, grey, blue or yellow and have a variety of textures. Growth forms vary from prostrate to distinctively upright. The fruit is a small, blue berry which can be showy in winter and provide an important food source for wildlife.

Junipers are well adapted to dry sites and full sun. In heavy shade, plants tend to become leggy and prone to diseases and mites. Irrigation must be used judiciously. Junipers are more tolerant of dry sites than wet, poorly drained soils where root disease may occur. Sprinkler irrigation which frequently wets the foliage predisposes plants to twig blight diseases.

Spider mites can severely injure juniper foliage by removing cell contents with their sucking mouthparts. Control of this pest can be difficult due to the unpredictable nature of the sudden outbreaks. Scale insects infest twigs and branches of juniper which weaken host. In the Southeast, bagworms can defoliate junipers.

Principal diseases of juniper are twig blights caused by the fungi *Kabatina* and *Phomopsis*. These diseases are most prevalent in shaded locations and where sprinkler irrigation is used.

On wet, poorly drained soils, *Phytophthora* root rot can cause decline and death of plants. Where juniper is planted near crabapple, hawthorne or certain other related species, orange galls are often produced on branches. Caused by a rust disease, these spectacular galls produce many inquiries from homeowners but cause little damage to the plant.

In ground cover plantings, voles often feed on bark tissue in winter resulting in girdling and death of stems. While juniper is not a favored host for deer, damage does occur when animal populations are high and alternative food sources are limited.

Recommended Monitoring for Juniper

Timing	Treatment
Winter	Inspect plants for deer and rodent damage. Apply deer repellents as needed. install barriers near base to deter rodent feeding.
Late Winter	Collect soil samples for nutrient and pH analysis.Sample roots for *Phytophthora* if plants exhibit decline. Apply horticultural oil to suppress mites and scale.Corrective prune crowns to reduce size, improve shape and eliminate dead, dying and objectionable limbs.
Early Spring	Apply first fungicide spray treatment to suppress twig blight on susceptible varieties. Monitor for spider mites and treat as needed. Inspect and excavate mulch from root collars. Remove any barriers that were installed around lower stem to deter rodents. Add additional mulch as needed. Apply fungicide soil treatment on plants with *Phytophthora* root rot.
Mid Spring	Apply second fungicide spray treatment to suppress twig blight on susceptible varieties. Apply fertilizers and soil amendments to adjust pH as needed based on soil test results. Monitor for spider mites and bagworms and apply treatments as necessary.
Late Spring	Apply third fungicide spray treatment to suppress twig blight on susceptible varieties. Monitor for spider mites, scale crawlers and bagworms. Treat as needed. Monitor irrigation and soil moisture levels to reduce moisture stress and prevent root disease.
Early Summer	Monitor spider mites, scale crawlers and bagworms. Apply treatments as necessary. Apply additional fungicide spray treatments on plantings which have been severely affected by twig blight in previous years. Monitor irrigation and soil moisture levels to reduce moisture stress and prevent root disease.
Mid Summer	Monitor spider mites, scale crawlers and bagworms. Apply treatments as necessary. Apply additional fungicide spray treatments on plantings which have been severely affected by twig blight in previous years. Monitor irrigation and soil moisture levels to reduce moisture stress and prevent root disease.
Late Summer	Monitor spider mites and scale crawlers. Apply treatments as necessary. Apply additional fungicide spray treatments on plantings which have been severely affected by twig blight in previous years. Monitor irrigation and soil moisture levels to reduce moisture stress and prevent root disease.
Fall	Apply fertilizer and soil treatments as needed to adjust pH and supply nutrients. Remove any mulch from root collar and stem to reduce risk of disease and rodent injury. Apply repellents if browse is evident.