

**Hort News and Tips**  
*Sandy Welches, MGV 2005*

As always, the *Ohio Gardener* magazine provides useful, season-specific information for Ohio gardeners, and our own ANR Educators are the inspiration for most of the magazine's tips. For those of us with many evergreens, our former ANR Educator, Tim Malinich, gives sound advice:

*Trees* by Tim Malinich, Erie County

It is interesting how people don't notice pest problems in the landscape until long after the problem pest is gone. Damage from evergreen pests can show up during dry cold winter months. Bagworm is one such pest. This caterpillar feeds on needles (and leaves of deciduous plants) and knits part of what it is eating into a bag in which it lives. It is a good disguise until the trees lose their leaves, at which point the tiny brown bags hang from the tree like ugly Christmas decorations. If the number of bags is small and easily reached, then pull them from the tree. Crush the bags to kill the overwintering eggs.



www.steintree.com



www.extensionumd.edu

To learn how to control bagworms go to [www.lancaster.unl.hort/bagworm.pdf](http://www.lancaster.unl.hort/bagworm.pdf), where you'll find an excellent guide from the University of Nebraska Extension.

www.activerain.com



A second pest is spruce spider mite. *Oligonychus ununguis* (Jacobi) It is considered one of the most destructive spider mites in the United States. It injures the foliage of spruce, arborvitae, juniper, hemlock, pine, Douglas-fir, and occasionally other conifers. Dwarf Alberta spruce, *Picea glauca* 'Conica,' is one of this pest's preferred host plants.

This mite is active when it is cool — fall and winter. It feeds off of needles, typically on spruce or arborvitae, creating tiny gray dots on the needles. The mites finish feeding when the weather turns to freezing, but the damage can become more apparent as the needles dry out during the winter. You can't do anything to control the pests now, but if you know they are there, plan on applying control when they begin feeding again in late winter or early spring when the temperature rises into the 50s F.

For more information on spruce spider mite control, go to [www.ento.psu.edu](http://www.ento.psu.edu), the Penn State University Extension for their fact sheet "Spruce Spider Mite".

Arborvitae mite damage



Spruce Spider Mite  
*Oligonychus ununguis*  
Stippling Damage



Finding Spruce Spider Mites

Photo credits: [www.bygl.osu.edu/](http://www.bygl.osu.edu/);  
[www.giroudtree.com/](http://www.giroudtree.com/); [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com/)

Malinich, T.J. (2017, January). *Region Report. Ohio Gardener*, January/February, pp. 10-11



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