



## Question of the Week

**Q: Why are my Norway spruce trees losing sections up to four to six inches long from the tips of their branches for no apparent reason?**

**A:** The Norway spruce is a common sight in yards throughout New Hampshire. Favored for their evergreen habit, relatively fast growth and pyramidal shape, the trees are often used as screens or windbreaks. Lately the Info Line at UNH Cooperative Extension's Family, Home & Garden Education Center has been getting calls from concerned owners about something causing tips of the spruce branches to detach and fall off. Karen Bennett, UNH Extension forest resources specialist, and Cheryl Smith, Extension's plant health specialist, who have both examined the broken spruce tips, suspect the cause to be a combination of red squirrels feeding near the tips, and strong winds, which cause the weakened tips to break and fall to the ground.

The dropped tips appear healthy with no signs of browning, weevil damage, or needle loss. The specialists believe the trees will recover with few or no long term impacts.

Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension's Family, Home & Garden Education Center Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., or e-mail us at [answers@unh.edu](mailto:answers@unh.edu)