



# Caliciopsis Canker (pine canker)

## *Caliciopsis pinea*

**Host:** Eastern and western white pine, and many firs.

**Distribution:** Throughout the northeast, Quebec, and Ontario. First reported in New Hampshire in 1997. Most commonly found throughout the central region of New Hampshire on sandy, well drained soils.

**Identifying symptoms:** Profuse pitching from small, round or elongated cankers in the mid to upper bole of eastern white pine. The cankers are found between the whorls which distinguishes it from blister rust which is associated with branch intersections.

Figure 1.



Figure 2.



**Life History:** This canker disease is not well understood. It's thought to be a weak perennial fungus which attacks thin barked areas of the branch and bole. Spores mature in late winter and the black hair like fruiting structures can persist throughout the year. Spores are probably rain splash disseminated and enter through bark lenticels or small insect wounds.

**Stand Damage:** In New Hampshire, it would not be uncommon to find white pine pole stands with as many as 70% of the stems infected. To date, mortality attributed to caliciopsis is very low. However increased crown transparency and reduced crown density on the infected trees suggests tree vigor is being reduced by heavy infections of this disease.

**Control:** Management practices which create increased sunlight and warmer temperatures in the upper bole area of the tree may decrease spore production and dissemination.

**Figure 1.** Arrow indicates canker location in crown stem.

**Figure 2.** Outline of severe three year old canker.

**Figure 3.** Yellow arrow points to first year canker.

**Figure 4.** Arrow indicates defect from 10 year old canker.

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Figure 3.

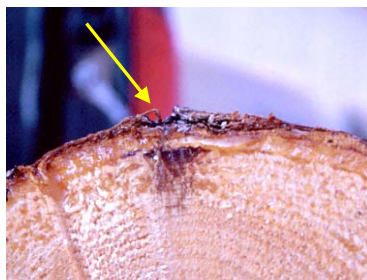


Figure 4.

