

# IPM for Christmas Trees

**IPM is an approach to pest control that employs mechanical, cultural, biological and educational tactics to keep pest numbers low and utilizes regular monitoring to determine if and when treatments are needed to prevent unacceptable damage.**

## Minimizing Pest Damage

- Match the species to the site. Use pest resistant species where possible.
- Maintain adequate spacing and good weed control, with a mowed area between the rows.
- Fertilize trees based on soil and foliar analysis.
- Avoid inter-planting, if possible. Blocks of even-aged single species matched to their site seems to work best.
- Try to avoid having wild border trees of the same species.
- Shear trees at the optimum time to maximize growth and reduce pest incidence.
- Do not leave tree debris on the site.
- Monitor frequently for pest problems and scout for alternate hosts for diseases of concern.
- Become **KNOWLEDGEABLE** about the common pests in your area and use this knowledge to know when and how to survey and when to apply controls.

## Ron's Recommended Thresholds for Considering Insect Control

- **Balsam Twig Aphid:** 1 aphid or more per square foot or branch from beating survey
- **Balsam Shootboring Sawfly:** 5 or more per 3x5 double-sided yellow sticky card
- **Spruce Spider Mite:** More than 5 per branch from beating survey

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