

Austrian Pine

(*Pinus nigra*)

A hardy, widely planted ornamental pine in Colorado known for long dark-green needles and strong wind tolerance. Austrian Pine performs well in alkaline soils but is highly susceptible to **Dothistroma needle blight**, **Zimmerman pine moth**, **needle scale**, and drought-related decline.



Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons: Spring | Summer | Fall | Winter

| Problem | Type | Active Season | Icons |
|----------------------------|--------------|---|-------|
| Zimmerman pine moth | Insect/borer | Late Summer–Fall (eggs), Spring (larvae active) | |
| Pine needle scale | Insect/scale | Crawler hatch in Spring; visible year-round | |

| <u>Problem</u> | <u>Type</u> | <u>Active Season</u> | <u>Icons</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| Pine sawfly | Insect/defoliator | Spring |  |
| Dothistroma needle blight | Fungus | Spring infection; symptoms Summer–Fall |    |
| Sphaeropsis (Diplodia) tip blight | Fungus | Infects new shoots in Spring |  |
| Environmental drought stress | Abiotic | Summer–Fall |   |

Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

| <u>Problem</u> | <u>Common Symptoms</u> | <u>Treatment & Management</u> |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Zimmerman Pine Moth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Branch tips die back Resin masses (“pitch masses”) on trunk or branch whorls Larvae tunnel under bark | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timed insecticide in <i>early spring</i> (pros) Remove heavily infested branches Reduce stress with deep watering |
| Pine Needle Scale | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> White, elongated scale on needles Yellowing and thinning foliage Reduced vigor over time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horticultural oil late winter/early spring Treat crawler stage (spring) with targeted insecticide Improve vigor with watering and mulch |
| Pine Sawfly | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larvae strip needles (especially lower branches) Clusters of caterpillar-like larvae Defoliation noticeable in spring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand-remove small groups Professional spray for heavy infestations Encourage beneficial insects |

| <u>Problem</u> | <u>Common Symptoms</u> | <u>Treatment & Management</u> |
|--|---|---|
| Dothistroma Needle Blight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red bands on needles with brown tips • Lower branches thin first • Needles drop prematurely | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fungicide in spring (two applications recommended) • Improve airflow: space trees or prune surroundings • Avoid overhead irrigation |
| Sphaeropsis (Diplodia) Tip Blight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New candle shoots die back • Resin droplets on cones • Browning from tips inward | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fungicide applications in spring (pros) • Remove infected cones/branches • Reduce stress through watering and mulch |
| Environmental Drought Stress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needle tip browning • Sparse canopy • Premature needle shed during hot summers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep water every 3–4 weeks in summer • Maintain 2–4" mulch ring • Avoid soil compaction and root injury |

When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

● When to Worry (action recommended)

- Branch tips die back with **pitch masses** (likely Zimmerman moth)
- Rapid thinning and browning of lower branches
- Red-banded needles throughout canopy (Dothistroma)
- Widespread needle yellowing and dieback
- Heavy needle scale infestation

These indicate fungal disease or internal boring pests requiring timely intervention.

● Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)

- Natural shedding of older, inner needles
- Minor needle browning during drought
- Light scale presence on limited branches
- Small patches of *Dothistroma* in wet years

These usually improve with proper watering and airflow.