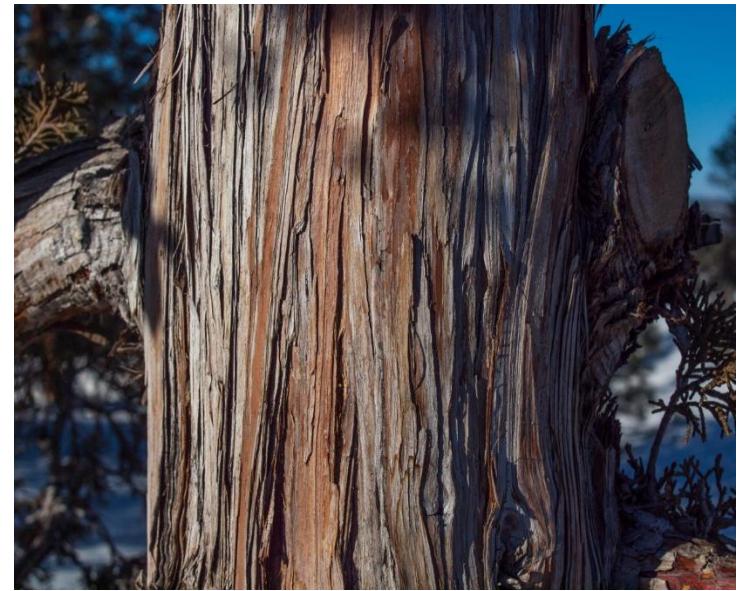
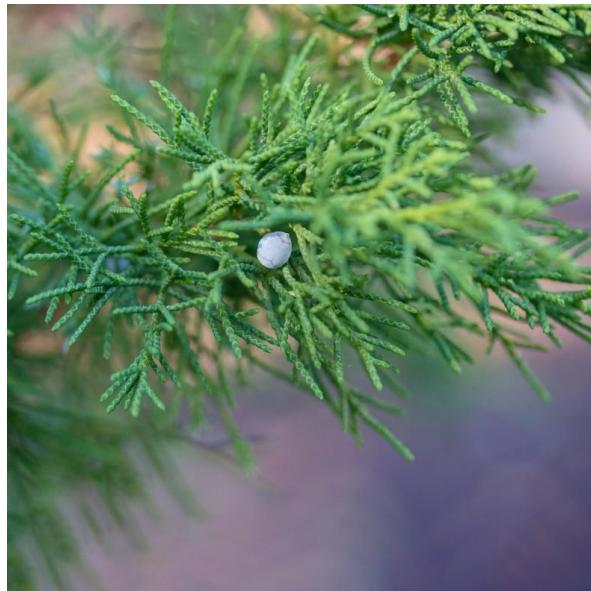


Rocky Mountain Juniper

(*Juniperus scopulorum*)

A hardy native evergreen found throughout Colorado's foothills and high plains. Highly drought-tolerant and long-lived, Rocky Mountain Juniper is susceptible to **juniper scale**, **cedar-apple rust**, **twig blights**, **bark beetles**, and **root decline from poor drainage**.



Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons:  Spring |  Summer |  Fall |  Winter

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Juniper scale	Insect/scale	Spring crawler stage; visible year-round	 
Juniper twig blight (Phomopsis / Kabatina)	Fungus	Kabatina: Late Winter–Spring; Phomopsis: Spring–Summer	  
Cedar-apple rust (Gymnosporangium)	Fungus	Spring infection; galls visible Winter–Spring	 

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Ips bark beetles (juniper species)		Insect/borer Spring–Fall	  
Spider mites	Mite	Summer (dry, hot weather)	
Root decline (poor drainage, overwatering, compaction)	Abiotic	Summer–Fall	 

Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Juniper Scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White/gray specks on needles Needle yellowing Thinning branches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat crawler stage in spring (pros) Horticultural oil in late winter Improve vigor: deep watering during drought
Juniper Twig Blight (<i>Phomopsis / Kabatina</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tip dieback on branch ends Brown, brittle shoots Often begins on stressed plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prune out infected tips (sanitizing tools) Increase airflow; avoid overcrowding Fungicide in spring for severe cases
Cedar–Apple Rust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orange/brown galls on juniper branches Gelatinous orange “horns” in wet spring Cosmetic on junipers; serious on apples/crabapples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove galls if reachable Plant apples & junipers apart Fungicide rarely needed for juniper
Ips Bark Beetles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fine boring dust Small pinholes in bark Branch dieback or whole sections turning brown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deep watering during drought reduces risk Preventive trunk sprays (pros) in outbreak years Remove and dispose of heavily infested trees

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Spider Mites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foliage turns dull, dusty, or bronzed • Fine webbing • More severe in hot, dry summers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hose-rinse foliage periodically • Professional miticide if population is high • Avoid chronic drought stress
Root Decline (Poor Drainage or Overwatering)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowing/browning foliage not linked to pests • Whole-plant thinning • Often triggered by clay soil or automatic irrigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce or correct irrigation • Improve soil drainage • Mulch lightly—avoid piling against trunk

When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

● When to Worry (action recommended)

- Entire branches turn brown suddenly
- Boring dust or bark pinholes appear (possible Ips beetles)
- Heavy scale covering needles
- Progressing twig dieback throughout canopy
- Chronic yellowing not improved by watering adjustments
- Galls multiplying rapidly near fruit trees (rust cycle management)

These situations need **professional evaluation or timely treatment**.

● Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)

- Small, isolated twig-tip dieback
- Light scale presence on a few needles
- Occasional rust galls on branches

- Minor bronzing from drought or winter desiccation
- Slight spider-mite activity without widespread damage

Often resolves with **improved watering, airflow, and seasonal recovery.**