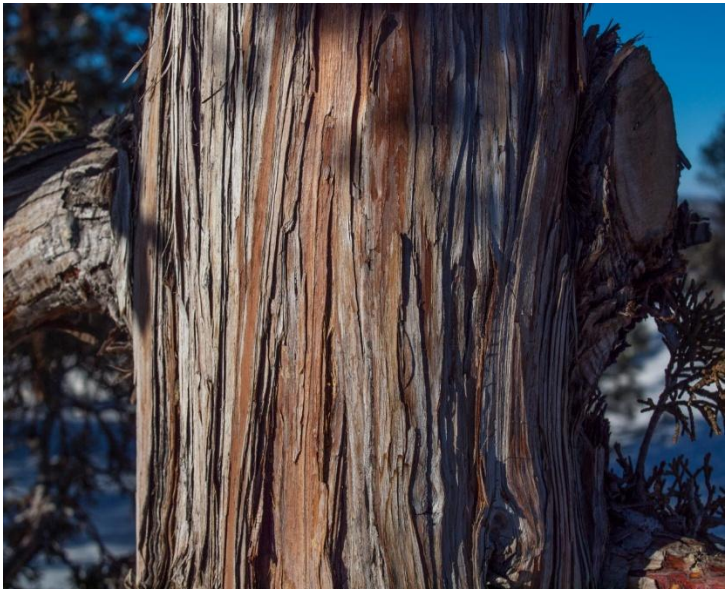


Rocky Mountain Juniper

(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 (Phomopsis / Kabatina)	<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.**