

## Spindle Tree

(*Euonymus europaeus* — European Spindle)

Spindle Tree is a **small ornamental tree** known for its **brilliant pink-red fall color**, **unique pink seed capsules with orange arils**, and **fine branching structure**. In Colorado, it is adaptable but highly susceptible to **Euonymus scale**, **mildew**, **leaf spot**, and **environmental scorch**. Some varieties can spread by seed.



### Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons:  Spring |  Summer |  Fall |  Winter

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
<b>Euonymus scale (major issue)</b>	Insect	Spring crawlers; visible year-round	 
<b>Powdery mildew</b>	Fungus	Summer–Fall	 
<b>Leaf spot</b>	Fungus	Spring–Summer	 

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Aphids	Insect	Spring–Fall	  
Canker diseases	Fungus	Spring–Fall	  
Environmental scorch / drought stress	Abiotic	Summer–Fall	 
Seed spread (invasive potential)	Biological	Fall	

### Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment &amp; Management</u>
<b>Euonymus Scale (Most Serious Threat)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hard white/gray crusting on stems</li> <li>Yellowing leaves</li> <li>Sooty mold from honeydew</li> <li>Thinning or dieback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dormant oil in late winter</li> <li>Treat crawler stage in late spring</li> <li>Prune heavily infested stems</li> <li>Systemic insecticide in severe cases</li> </ul>
<b>Powdery Mildew</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White powdery coating on leaves</li> <li>Distorted new growth</li> <li>Reduced vigor in shade or dense plantings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase sunlight &amp; airflow</li> <li>Water at soil level only</li> <li>Fungicide for severe annual outbreaks</li> </ul>
<b>Leaf Spot</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brown, purple, or black leaf lesions</li> <li>Premature leaf drop in wet years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rake/remove leaves</li> <li>Improve airflow</li> <li>Usually cosmetic</li> </ul>

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment &amp; Management</u>
<b>Aphids</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sticky honeydew</li> <li>• Sooty mold</li> <li>• Leaf curling or distortion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hose-rinse foliage</li> <li>• Encourage lady beetles</li> <li>• Systemic options for heavy infestations</li> </ul>
<b>Canker Diseases</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunken bark patches</li> <li>• Cracked bark</li> <li>• Branch dieback (often after scale or drought)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prune to healthy wood (late winter)</li> <li>• Sanitize tools</li> <li>• Reduce drought stress—no chemical cure</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Scorch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brown leaf edges</li> <li>• Summer leaf drop</li> <li>• Early fall color</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep water during heat waves</li> <li>• Mulch 2–3"</li> <li>• Avoid west-facing reflective heat</li> </ul>
<b>Seed Spread (European Spindle)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bright pink/orange seed capsules produce new seedlings</li> <li>• Potential for landscape spread</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect seed capsules</li> <li>• Remove volunteer seedlings early</li> </ul>

### When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

#### ● When to Worry (action recommended)

- Stems coated with scale + leaf yellowing
- Branch dieback from cankers
- Repeated powdery mildew causing stunted growth
- Large sections of canopy thinning
- Severe scorch despite proper watering
- Self-seeding beyond intended planting area

Scale is the **primary threat** to spindle trees in Colorado and must be managed early.

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● **Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)**

- Light leaf spotting
- Mild mildew on shaded leaves
- Minor aphid honeydew
- Early fall color during drought years
- Small amounts of tip dieback

These issues usually improve with **good watering, airflow, and routine cleanup.**