

## Tree Insect + Disease Diagnosis Form

Submitted by: **Tom Linkhart**

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Daytime Phone: **503 457-6609**

Location (Nearest community, elevation if known): **Gaston 250 ft elevation**

Tree Species (if known): **Gala Apple**

How would you describe where this tree lives? (backyard, near a home, near a street or driveway, part of a bigger lot or forest)

**Hillside below house West facing**

Does this tree live out in the open or are there other trees close to it? **25 ft from a Fuji Apple**

When was the problem first noticed? **June 10**

Please describe specific symptoms: (needles or leaves are red or yellow or sparse, reduced height growth of tree, something is chewing on needles or leaves, abnormal branch swelling, abnormal growth, sap running down trunk of tree, sawdust near base of tree, mistletoe clumps on branches, signs of woodpecker activity, branch or top dieback.):

**some mature leaves have black areas and and curling. developing fruit seems OK**

Are there any signs of insects, fungi, or mistletoe present? If so, please describe and include photos if possible.

**No**

What is the location of damage to the tree? Is it just needles, scattered branches, one side only, just the top, just the bottom, or the whole tree?

**the most mature leaves**

Does this issue only apply to one tree or are there several with similar symptoms?

**only one**

Are there any potential human-caused problems we should be aware of? (digging up or compacting part of root system, chemical application nearby, direct injury to tree, pruning in Spring or Summer).

**no**

# Taking Photos for Tree Insect or Disease Diagnosis

## A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words...

If you have a tree that appears to be in decline or have some issues you want help with, the best bet is to first send a few photos of the tree in question. Below are some tips for taking high quality photos (even with your phone) that tells the story of your tree and where it lives.



Sequoia pitch moth wound and larvae.

1. **Lighting.** Ideally you want the sun at your back so it does not make the tree a dark silhouette in the photo. You want the tree, branch, or trunk to be well lit. To get the right shot of your tree in question, this might mean walking to the other side of the tree, or even waiting until a different time of day to get a clear shot of the tree. Early morning and evening are usually great times to get landscape photos, but can sometimes cast too many shadows on an individual plant.

2. **Close Ups of Any Obvious Symptoms/Critters/Disease.** Take photos of sawdust, pitching (any sap flowing out of the tree), open wounds or holes

in the tree. This helps me know if the tree has been damaged, or might help me diagnose exactly which pest is in your tree. If you have wounds, insects, galls, or other visible critters, include something that provides scale (quarter, pencil, book) is helpful.

3. **Context.** Show me a photo with the entire tree and any surrounding vegetation, trees, ground or buildings. This will help me assess whether density, location or some other disturbance is at play.

4. **High Resolution.** If your internet can handle you sending me large files, then go for it. That helps me zoom in and look around the photo. If you have many large photos, I recommend using a photo sharing application (Dropbox, Flickr, Google Photos, whatever you prefer).

### Other information to include:

1. Species of tree. Age of stand if you know it.

2. Where you are located.

3. When you started seeing symptoms. A description of symptoms.

4. Anything you think might be suspicious (recent herbicide, construction on site, logging operation).

5. Patterns. Is it 1 tree, a whole patch of trees? Is it just you, or your neighbors too? Is it the whole tree, or just part? If so, what part?

Please use the Tree Insect and Disease Diagnosis form to assist you gather all the pertinent information.



A juniper with foliage scattered dead branches and abnormal "brooms" in a corral with compacted soil.

Send your photos and diagnosis form to:

Nicole Strong  
Forestry and Natural Resources  
Extension agent  
nicole.strong@oregonstate.edu

Questions? (541) 548-6088



Mistletoe in a Ponderosa pine.

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