Juniper twig blight, also known as Phomopsis twig blight, caused by the fungus Phomopsis juniperovora, infects twigs of junipers and occasionally Cryptomeria, Chamaecyparis, and Thuja (arborvitae). The fungus seldom causes significant damage unless weather conditions become favorable for disease development. It is very destructive in seedbeds, cutting beds, and lined-out stock in nurseries.

SYMPTOMS: The visible symptoms are a browning and dieback of the young leaves and twigs. With the aid of a hand lens or microscope, very small black fruiting bodies of the disease fungus may be seen at the base of the brown or blighted plant tissue. The blighting of young shoot tips occurs in early May in Virginia. On highly susceptible hosts, the fungus may invade and girdle larger stems, resulting in browning and death of major branches. In very severe cases entire plants may be killed.

DISEASE CYCLE: During prolonged wet, cool periods as occur in the spring, spores which ooze from the black fruiting bodies in long threads are spread chiefly by rain and overhead irrigation to other branches and adjacent healthy plants. These spores germinate and invade healthy twigs. The blight fungus penetrates young tissues rapidly and usually kills infected first-year seedlings.

CONTROL

SANITATION: Viable spores of the blight fungus have been recovered from branches that have been dead for as long as 2 years. All blighted twig tips should be removed and burned to eliminate the sources of infection. Pruning or shearing should be done on a dry day to reduce spread of the fungus to other plants by contact. Although older seedlings or transplants may be killed by this fungus, such stock may survive in the nursery, especially if only a few branches are girdled. Such slightly damaged seedlings when moved to plantings will carry the disease.

RESISTANT VARIETIES: In areas where juniper blight has become a serious problem nurserymen should consider production and sale of varieties or selection of ever-
greens which are resistant to the disease. Under Illinois growing conditions the following species were only slightly affected or immune to infection:**

**Chamaecyparis**
C. *pisifera* Sieb. & Zucc.  
'Filifera Aurea'  
'Filifera Aureovariegata'  
'Plumosa Aurea'  
'Plumosa Argentea'  
'Plumosa Lutescens'  
'Squarrosa Sulphurea'

**Cupressus**  
C. *bakeri* Math.

**Juniperus**
J. *chinensis* L.  
'Armstrongii'  
'Aureo-globosa'  
'Fairview'  
'Globosa'  
'Herzii'  
'Keteleeri'  
'Mountbatten'  
'Obelisk'  
'Pfitzeriana'  
'Pfitz. Aurea'  
'Pfitz. Blue'  
'Pfitz. Compacta'  
'Pfitz. Compact Kallay'  
'Pfitz. Moraine'  
'Pfitz. Kallay'  
'San Jose'

Var. *sargentii* Henry

sarg. 'Glaucan'  
'Sheppardi'  
'Watereri'  
'Wintergreen'

**J. *comunis* L.**  
'Ashfordii'  
'Aurea-spica'  
'Repanda'  
'Suecica'

**J. *formosana* Hayata**

**J. *horizontalis* Moench 'Depressa'**  
'Depressa Aurea'  
'Depressa Vase Shape'  
'Grey Carpet'  
'Prostrate'

**J. *procumbens* (Endl.) Sieb & Zucc.**

**J. *rigida* Sieb. & Zucc.**

**J. *sabina* L.**  
'Arcadia'  
'Broadmoor'  
'Fastigiata'  
'Skandia'

**J. *squamata* Lamb.**  
var. *fargesii*  
'Meyeri'  
'Parsonii'

**J. *virginiana* L.**  
'Kosteri'  
'Nova'  
'Pendula'

**From "Hosts of the Juniper Blight Fungus" - Illinois. State Nurserymen's Association Newsletter by Dr. Donald F. Schoeneweiss.**

**KEYS TO PROPER USE OF PESTICIDES**

1. Read the label on each pesticide container before each use. Follow instructions to the letter; heed all cautions and warnings, and note precautions about residues.

2. Keep pesticides in the containers in which you bought them. Put them where children or animals cannot get to them, preferably under lock and away from food, feed, seed, or other material that may become harmful if contaminated.

3. Dispose of empty containers in the manner specified on the label.

**SEE YOUR DOCTOR IF SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS OCCUR DURING OR AFTER USE OF PESTICIDES.**

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