



# Priority pest: Dothistroma needle blight



**Dothistroma needle blight**  
(*Dothistroma septosporum*)

## The disease and its impacts

**Dothistroma needle blight is a fungal disease that causes needle loss, slow growth and sometimes death in at least 82 species of pines and some related conifers.**

Very susceptible pines include radiata pine, ponderosa pine, Scott's pine, maritime pine, and Japanese black pine. It is also known to attack some types of spruce, cedar, fir, larch and Douglas fir.

This disease is not known to occur in Western Australia. Its early detection and reporting will improve chances of eradication and containment to help protect forests and tree plantations in WA.





## What to look for

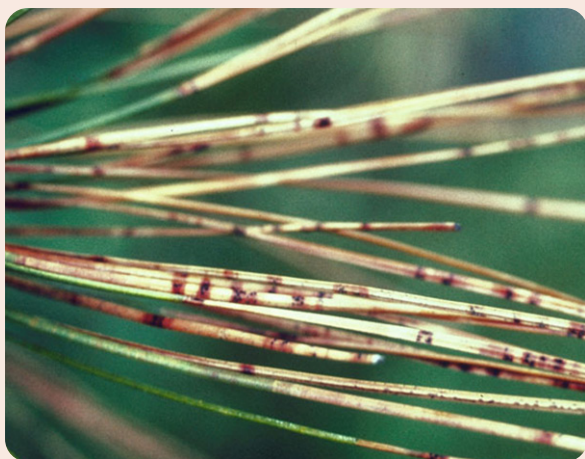
Dothistroma needle blight is an exotic disease that would threaten pines and other conifers.



- Reddish-brown spots and bands appear on the needles.
- Disease symptoms begin at the base of the tree then gradually move upwards.



- The needle beyond the diseased band eventually dies and turns brown, while the bottom part remains green.



- Infected needles eventually turn completely brown, and drop from the tree.



- When older needles are lost, tufts of needles at the ends of branches gives a "lion's tail" appearance.

## How you can help: look, act, report

Check pine and conifer trees regularly for dark green bands on the needles that turn to reddish brown.

It is important to report any suspected occurrence of needle blight. Early detection and eradication will help protect Western Australia's forest and nursery industries, and the environment.



### Report your observations

MyPestGuide® Reporter  
via app or online  
[mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au](http://mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au)

Pest and Disease Information Service  
(08) 9368 3080  
[padis@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:padis@dpird.wa.gov.au)



[agric.wa.gov.au/plant-biosecurity/dothistroma-needle-blight-declared-pest](http://agric.wa.gov.au/plant-biosecurity/dothistroma-needle-blight-declared-pest)