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WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY SPRUCE TREE?

IF YOU ARE NOTICING YELLOW/ORANGISH NEEDLES ON THE INSIDE OF YOUR SPRUCE TREE ALL IS WELL. NEEDLE DIE BACK OCCURS ON THE INNER BRANCHES EVERY YEAR FROM THE TRUNK TO USUALLY A FOOT OR TWO ALONG THE BRANCHES. SOMETIMES YOU SEE IT SOMETIMES YOU DON'T NOTICE IT. USUALLY IT HAPPENS IN FEBRUARY-MARCH BUT WHEN THE WEATHER IS VERY HOT IN JULY OR AUGUST THEY WILL CHANGE SOONER LIKE IN SEPTEMBER. THESE ARE THE NEEDLES THE TREE WILL SACRIFICE FIRST IF IT'S STRUGGLING, STRESSED OR IF THE NEEDLES AREN'T GETTING ENOUGH SUNLIGHT .

WEATHER CAUSES THIS. IF SPRUCE TREES GO INTO ANY KIND OF STRESS IT WILL TAKE THE ENERGY FROM THESE INNER NEEDLES AND DIVERT IT TO THE OUTER NEEDLES AND BUDS. THIS IS HOW THE TREE SURVIVES. THESE INNER NEEDLES MEAN VERY LITTLE IF ANYTHING TO THE TREE. THEY ARE USUALLY A DIFFERENT COLOR OF GREEN AND ARE LAYING FLAT. WHY ARE THEY LIKE THIS? INNER NEEDLES DON'T GET THE SUNLIGHT THEY NEED TO BE VERY HEALTHY LIKE THE NEEDLES ON THE OUT SIDE OF THE TREE. IT'S EASY FOR THE SPRUCE TREE TO CUT THEM OFF, BASICALLY. THE AMOUNT OF RAIN WE GET LAST YEAR COMBINED WITH VERY LITTLE SUN PUT ALL TREES INTO A BIT OF STRESS. THEY DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH SUNLIGHT LAST YEAR TO PHOTOSYNTHESIZE ENOUGH ENERGY AND THE HIGH WATER TABLE STRESSED THEM OUT A BIT. SPRUCE TREES LIKE LESS WATER OVER MORE. YOUR SHOULD NEVER NEED TO WATER AN ESTABLISHED SPRUCE TREE ON A REGULAR BASIS. THEN THIS SPRING UNTIL MID SUMMER WE HAD A LOT OF RAIN AND NOT A LOT OF SUNLIGHT. THIS IS CAUSING THE TREES TO DROP THIER INNER NEEDLES EARLY.

WHAT STRESS? OUR SPRUCE TREES LIKE IT COOL AND A BIT MOIST TO DRY. WHEN WE LIKE THE WEATHER, SPRUCE DON'T. WHEN TEMPERATURES GO ABOVE 30C, OUR TREES IN ALBERTA FIND IT TOO HOT AND CLOSE UP THEIR PORES (STOMATA), TO PREVENT DRYING OUT. BASICALLY, THEY ARE HOLDING THEIR BREATH. THIS THEN CAUSES HEALTH ISSUES WHICH COMES FORTH BY INNER NEEDLE DIE BACK. ALSO, WHEN IT'S TOO CLOUDY, THE TREES DON'T GET THE SUNLIGHT REQUIRED TO PHOTOSYNTHESIZE, THEREFORE NOT MAKING THE ENERGY THEY NEED TO SURVIVE WINTER. THEY TAKE THE ENERGY FROM THE INNER NEEDLES. ON REAL HOT YEARS INNER NEEDLE DIE BACK APPEARS IN LATE SUMMER THROUGH TO FALL. IN NOT ENOUGH RAIN OR CLOUDY YEARS, IT WILL APPEAR IN LATE WINTER.

