

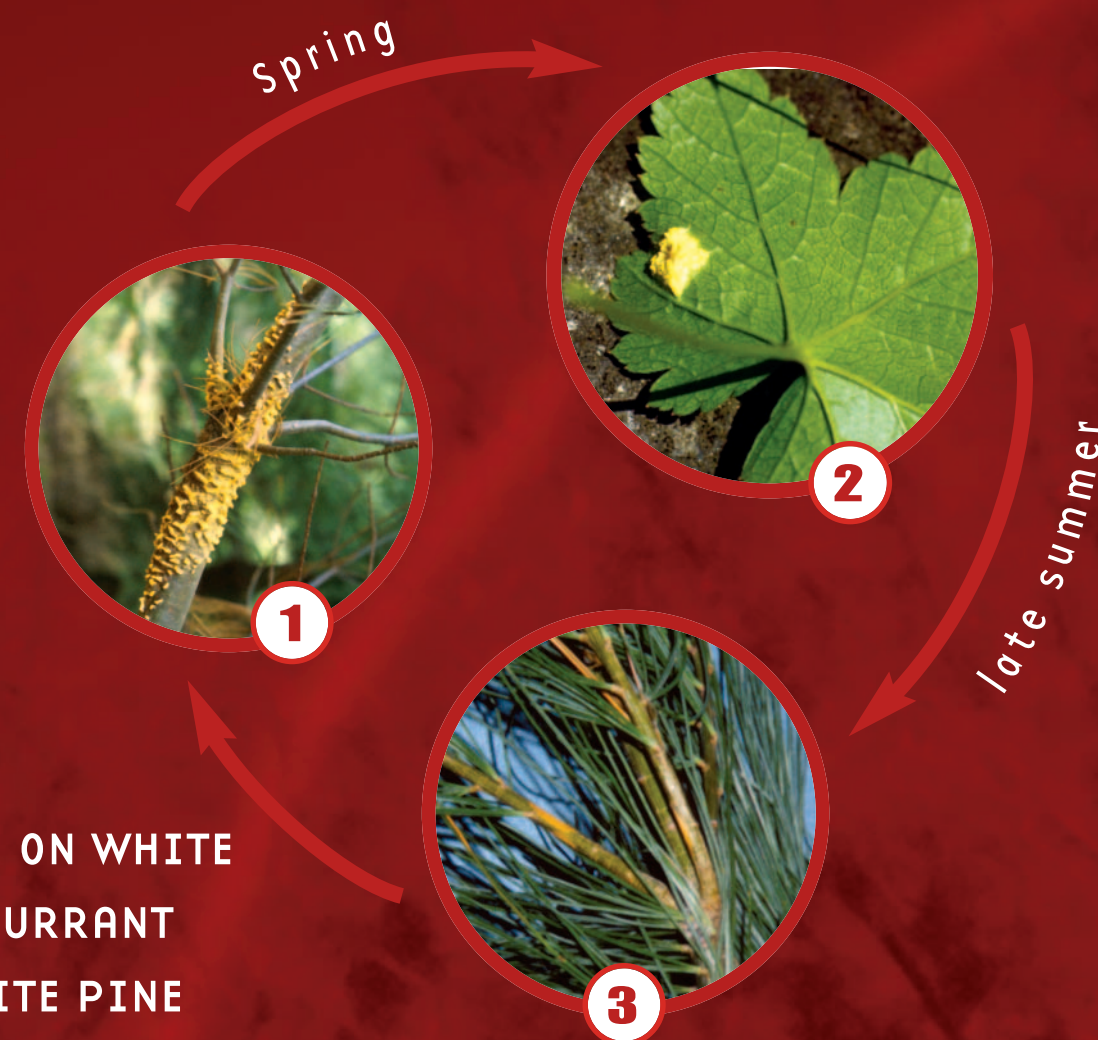


# CONTROLLING White Pine Blister Rust

WHITE PINE BLISTER RUST IS AN EXOTIC DISEASE INTRODUCED INTO NORTH AMERICA IN THE EARLY 1900s. IN ORDER TO SPREAD, THIS DISEASE NEEDS CURRANT SHRUBS (*RIBES* SPP.); IT DOES NOT SPREAD DIRECTLY FROM PINE TO PINE.

## Life cycle

IN SPRING, SPORES PRODUCED ON WHITE PINE INFECT THE FOLIAGE OF CURRANT SHRUBS. IN LATE SUMMER, WHITE PINE NEEDLES ARE INFECTED WITH NEW SPORES PRODUCED ON THE FOLIAGE OF CURRANT SHRUBS. SMALL TREES DIE WHEN THE DISEASE REACHES THE TRUNK.



## 1 Inspection

BEFORE ANY INITIATIVE TO CONTROL BLISTER RUST IS TAKEN, THE HEALTH OF **YOUNG** PLANTATIONS (6 TO 12 YEARS, DEPENDING ON THE REGION) NEEDS TO BE ASSESSED, PREFERABLY IN SPRING (MAY-JUNE) WHEN BLISTER RUST IS CLEARLY VISIBLE.



## 2 Prescription

FOLLOWING HEALTH ASSESSMENT BY A FORESTRY ADVISER, A PRESCRIPTION IS PROPOSED IF THE NUMBER OF INFECTED TREES WARRANTS IT. INTERVENTION IS NOT NECESSARY WHEN FEW STEMS ARE INFECTED OR WHEN TOO MANY TREE TRUNKS ARE INFECTED.



## 3 Pruning

BOTH INFECTED AND HEALTHY BRANCHES ARE SYSTEMATICALLY PRUNED TO A PRESCRIBED HEIGHT.



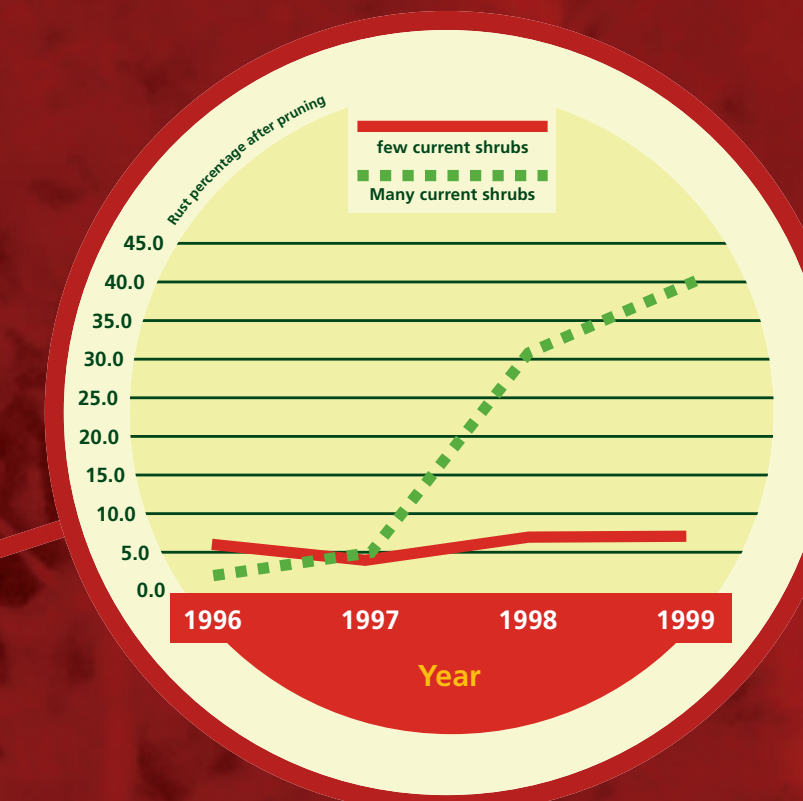
BRANCH COLLARS SHOULD NOT BE DAMAGED WHEN CUTTING, BUT NO STUBS SHOULD BE LEFT.



EQUIPMENT: WELL-SHARPENED PRUNING SHEARS OR HANDSAW. AXES OR CHAIN SAWS SHOULD NOT BE USED, SO AS NOT TO DAMAGE THE TENDER BARK OF WHITE PINE SAPLINGS. WORK TOOLS DO NOT NEED TO BE STERILIZED.

## 5 Results

BLISTER RUST CAN BE CONTROLLED THROUGH PRUNING IN YOUNG PLANTATIONS WHEN CURRANT SHRUBS DENSITY NEAR PLANTATIONS IS NOT TOO HIGH.



### Productivity

50-55 STEMS PRUNED PER HOUR.

## 4 Disposal?

BRANCHES DO NOT NEED TO BE DISPOSED OF. THEY ARE LEFT ON SITE, BECAUSE THIS BLISTER RUST FUNGUS DEVELOPS ONLY IN LIVING TISSUE. TREES WHOSE TRUNKS ARE INFECTED SHOULD BE CUT.



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