

## PEST FACT SHEET:

### *Dwarf Mistletoe*

1. Dwarf Mistletoe is a small, leafless, orange colored plant.
2. It is a parasite of most conifer species.
3. It is different from leafy (kissing) mistletoes, which have green leaves and berries.
4. Each species of mistletoe has a preferred host, but can attack species that are not preferred as well.
5. Dwarf mistletoe seeds are coated with a sticky substance.
6. The seeds are shot away from the plant, up to 45 horizontal feet, to spread to other trees.
7. The seeds germinate on the new host and a root wedges itself into a twig of the host.
8. Mistletoe roots tap into the tree's xylem to get water, minerals, and nutrients.
9. Many host trees respond to infestation by producing clumps of foliage called "witches brooms".
10. The fast growing witches brooms make it hard for the tree to maintain uninfected branches.
11. Trees weakened by dwarf mistletoe are more susceptible to bark beetle attack.
12. Control strategies have shifted in the last 30 years from eradication (complete elimination), which is not cost effective, to stand management, which doesn't completely eliminate the pest, but reduces its impact.
13. Stand management strategies include planting non-preferred host species and harvesting highly infested trees.
14. Fast growing, healthy trees may outgrow the mistletoe's spread upward through the tree's crown.