

Dwarf Mistletoe, *arceuthobium spp.*, can be problematic in ponderosa and lodgepole pine forests, although it can also play a role in Douglas-fir, pinyon and limber pines.



Mistletoes are a small leafless parasitic flowering plant whose seeds can explode at up to 60 mph, are very sticky and adhere to young branches with rootlets that penetrate bark. Seeds generally disperse from August to early September. Mistletoe may spread at a rate of 1-2 feet per year.

Mistletoes kill by competing with the host tree for food and water. While mortality of infected trees does not occur rapidly, it is dependent on severity of infection and both the vigor and size of the tree.

Pruning and tree removal is the best way to reduce or eliminate infestations.

Chemical application with Florel may be made on high-value trees and while it can remove mistletoe shoots and reduce seed production for 1-3 years, it will **NOT** kill the entire mistletoe plant.

Retreatment is necessary until infected trees are removed and replanted with resistant species.

