

#### MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE

Now is a good time to identify any of your pines trees that might have been attacked by the mountain pine beetle. Look for the pitch tubes, sawdust and woodpecker holes. Trees located in very dry situations could start yellowing this month. The trees should be cut and treated as soon as possible before emergence of the new beetles in late summer to early fall.

We are still in a normal situation as far as mountain pine beetle in our area. This means that we will see a few infected ponderosa pines on our lands but nothing out of ordinary. The best way to protect your trees is to get rid of the ones that were newly infected last fall. Mountain pine beetle is still ravaging lodgepole pine on the West Slope and has moved over the divide into Rocky Mountain National Park where areas of lodgepoles have been attacked along with some ponderosas.

If you intend to spray valuable trees on your property, it is a good idea to line up a tree specialist soon as possible as they get very busy in the spring. A company from Laramie, Wyoming has contacted Jan Ricker. They are interested in giving a discount for larger numbers of trees to be treated. Jan has this information. Dave Lentz of the Colorado Forest Service indicates that we could lose 20% to 50% of our ponderosas if we have a big invasion similar to the West Slope. He feels at this time, our efforts should be directed towards removing trees that have already been attacked and by improving the health of our other trees.

Some of you may have heard that Vail and other ski resorts are going to have their valuable trees treated by means of injections of emamectin benzoate into the trunks of the trees. Foresters have long had concerns about any entrance drilling into trees as they feel it could compromise the health of the trees. Any chemical injected into trees moves very slowly and takes a long time to reach the phloem or food-conducting tissue where the beetle larvae feed. There is also some concern about the toxicity of this chemical and the possibility that it may have long term environmental effects. The jury is still out on this one.

#### DEAD TREES ALONG ROADWAYS

Many of the evergreen trees along our roadway have been damaged by the use of deicers. Most deicers contain a form of salt that injures or kills plant cells. These salts prevent uptake of nutrients and causes the tree to be unable to absorb moisture. The trees show needles turning brown or reddish. In many cases, the trees continue to have problems and eventually die. Colorado spruce and Douglas fir are especially susceptible.

#### NOXIOUS WEEDS

As we progress into spring, we will begin to notice the noxious invasive weeds showing new growth. Spring is always a good time to work on eliminating these pests. The Retreat newsletter will continue to feature articles concerning noxious weeds that are showing up in our properties. Many of these weeds are prohibited by Colorado law and can result in a fine if they are not removed.