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Services Offered:

- Tree and Shrub Care
- Stump Grinding
- Fire Mitigation

Winter Time:

- Holiday Lighting
- Roof and Deck Snow Removal

****24 Hour Emergency Service****

Dwarf Mistletoe



Basics:

Dwarf Mistletoe is a parasitic plant that attacks many conifer trees in the Rocky Mountain region. The seeds sprout within the phloem, or nutrient flow of the host tree, and develop root systems that rob the tree of vital water and nutrients. The plant itself is usually yellow, green, or orange, and develop seeds at the end of the shoots. These seeds are spread by an explosive charge of pressure that releases and sends these seeds as projectiles into nearby branches and trunks of trees. The horizontal range of the seeds is about 20 feet. If left untreated, the mistletoe will continue to spread and can eventually defoliate and kill the host trees.

Treatment:

Pruning: On trees in good health, with minimal mistletoe, the infected branches can be pruned or removed. You can also pull out the stems of mistletoe that are within reach so they can no longer spread seeds.

Removal: On trees that are heavily infested with mistletoe, and dying. It is recommended that these trees be removed to reduce the spread of the seeds, and to avoid inviting more damaging tree pests like Mountain Pine Beetle and Ips Beetle, both of which will attack stressed trees. Most of these types of trees will be turning brown and will have already lost many needles. Also, these trees will have many different shoots of mistletoe from top to bottom of the tree.

Spraying: On trees that have mistletoe, but are in better health, spraying is an option. The type of spray is an Ethephon spray called Florel, which is a plant growth regulator. It works by reducing the amount of fruit or seeds a particular plant produces. This product is applied about every 3 years in mid-summer. The idea is to have the trees sprayed while mistletoe is in full bloom, but before it has a chance to reproduce and spread seeds. This product will not completely kill mistletoe, but will stop its reproduction. The tricky part about killing mistletoe all together is that it is a plant just like the tree, and any product that can completely kill the mistletoe will also kill the tree. This spray has been proven as an effective way of drastically slowing down the spread of mistletoe.

Other Tree Bugs To Look For

Ips Beetle:

Be aware of the crowns dying in your conifer trees. This is usually a tell-tale sign of Ips Beetle.



Needle Scale:

Fairly easy to spot, appears as little white dots along the needles of conifer trees. When left untreated, needle scale can defoliate and kill the host tree.

