

Spruce Firewood: Ways to Reduce Beetle Populations

- 1) **Fresh cut logs with green needles; bark peels away from wood smoothly; wood is not split**
 - Store only enough firewood for a single winter's use.
 - Split into stove-size pieces to dry out; stack loosely or separate to allow maximum air circulation.
 - Dry wood discourages new spruce beetle attacks.
 - De-bark log to eliminate potential beetle habitat.
- 2) **Fresh logs with green needles when cut; visible beetle attacks on bark surface (reddish-brown boring dust and pitch globules); bark may peel smoothly; wood not split.**
 - Store only enough firewood for a single winter's use.
 - Split into stove-size pieces to dry out; stack loosely or separate to allow maximum air circulation. This will dry out the beetle larvae and their food source.
 - De-bark log to eliminate larvae and habitat.
- 3) **Dry logs; rust colored or no needles present on tree when cut; some evidence of old beetle attacks or woodpecker activity; bark may adhere tightly or pull off in pieces.**
 - Split and use prior to next spring to kill adult beetles that will emerge at that time.
 - Fire-scorch the outer portion of the bark, killing beetles beneath, but keeping the bulk of the wood intact (messy, but intact) for future use.
 - Consider preventive measures on surrounding live spruce trees. Consult your local arborist (tree specialist): new methods now include tree injections instead of messy spray-on chemicals.
- 4) **Dry, old logs or split wood; bark pulls off loosely**
 - Spruce beetles will not attack well-seasoned wood. Old wood, free of spruce beetles, is not a potential source of beetle infestation.
 - Spruce Bark Beetles are normally gone from trees dead more than three years; however, other types of beetles and insects may enter the wood.



Beetle bore hole dust.



Beetle infestation of black spruce evidenced by red topped/dying trees.