

**MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE**  
*Dendroctonus ponderosae*

- Geographic range -** Western United States and Canada
- Species affected -** Ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, limber pine
- Type of damage -** Tree killing caused by a combination of beetles attacking and breeding in the inner bark and introduction of staining fungi that plug the trees vascular system.
- Symptoms -** Groups of dead and dying pines, pitch tubes and/or red boring dust on bark surface, galleries and insects in inner bark, blue stain in wood.
- Importance -** A major tree killing pest of ponderosa and lodgepole pine in Colorado. Outbreaks have appeared at periodic intervals in ponderosa pine along the Front Range and Uncompaghre and in lodgepole pine on the Western Slope.
- Remarks -** A pest of forested areas, not likely to be encountered in an urban situation. This insect is a major pest problem in urban-wildland interface areas.



Left – Pitch tubes on bark of lodgepole pine caused by mountain pine beetle attack.  
Right – Pair of mountain pine beetle adults constructing an egg gallery.

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Left – Egg and larval galleries of mountain pine beetle.  
Right – Ponderosa pines in early stages of “fading” due to mountain pine beetle attack.



Aerial view of groups of ponderosa pines killed by mountain pine beetle.

