

Bark Beetle Reduction Cost Share Program



Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management

What's Bugging AZ Trees?

Bark beetles are very small insects that feed on phloem, or the "sugary" tissue that lies between the bark and the wood of a tree. As they feed, they create tunnels that, when severe enough, may cause the tree to die. Bark beetles typically prefer to attack weakened, stressed trees. When bark beetles find forested areas that contain weak, stressed trees, they produce an aggregate pheromone that attracts more beetles to the area.



Figure 1: Two bark beetles on a penny

How Do I Know if My Trees Are Infested?

Bark beetle infestations are most often seen in evergreen trees. The most common signs and symptoms of an active bark beetle infestation are the yellowing of needles, especially those at the top of the tree (Fig. 2), and the presence of pin-sized holes in the bark (Fig. 3). You may also see accumulations of frass (sawdust like material) at the base of the tree (Fig. 4), or tree sap leaking from small holes in the tree (Fig. 5).



Figure 2: Top-down die back of crown



Figure 3: Exit holes in bark



Figure 4: Accumulated frass in cracks of bark



Figure 5: Sap production

What Can You Do?

Schedule a Site Assessment, Remove Infested Trees

When beetle populations get large enough, they will start attacking healthy trees. Removing bark beetle infested trees has proven to reduce bark beetle spread in otherwise healthy forests. To assist in maintaining healthy forests and reduce bark beetle infestations, the Bark Beetle Reduction Cost Share Program gives landowners financial assistance to remove infested trees.

The Bark Beetle Reduction Cost Share Program helps landowners respond to bark beetle infestations by paying 50% of the cost of tree removal. This program aims to help private landowners reduce the spread of bark beetles to their own trees, and to the surrounding natural areas.



Figure 5: Rust colored needles and tree mortality caused by Bark beetles shown at the landscape scale

Have Questions?

Contact our Forest Health Program at:
foresthealth@dffm.az.gov
602-771-1407

This program supports the mission of the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management by:

- » Protecting Healthy Forests
- » Supporting Communities
- » Reducing Wildfire Risk

How Do I Sign Up?

STEP 1: If you suspect bark beetle infestation on your property or are unsure, simply call or email us to let us know you're interested in the Cost Share Program.

Call [602]-771-1407

Email foresthealth@dffm.az.gov

Tell us your name, contact info, and location.

STEP 2: A DFFM forestry professional will perform an onsite assessment of your property and identify all actively infested trees with flagging and a paint mark.

STEP 3: After the assessment, you will obtain quotes from contractors to remove the marked and flagged trees, including the removal of all debris. You will send your quotes to DFFM. Based on the quotes, you pick which company you'd like to work with and pay half the total amount directly to the contractor.

STEP 4: Once the tree removal is conducted, you will be contacted by the DFFM to confirm the work was completed on your property, and all debris was removed as well. The Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management will then pay the remaining 50% of the total cost directly to the contractor.

➔ [Click here to sign up for the Homeowner Waitlist Form for the Bark Beetle Reduction Cost Share Program.](#)

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