

Piñon Blister Rust

Cronartium occidentale



Host: Piñon pine. Occasional Hosts: ponderosa pine and other pines

Piñon blister rust is a fungus that attacks and kills small trees and causes branch wilting, dieback, or death on larger trees. Multiple sites of infection causes tree stress, which can attract the piñon Ips bark beetle. Piñon pitch mass borer (*Dioryctria ponderosae*) is known to attack the rust infection sites. This disease is mainly found between 6,000-7,000 feet of elevation near drainages that are suitable for the alternate hosts, current and gooseberry (*Ribes* spp.). The alternate hosts are required for the rust to complete its life cycle.

Symptoms include swelling, cracking and resin production on branches and stems. Can be difficult to detect.

Management includes removal of infected branches or complete removal of heavily infected trees.



Figure 1. Examples of piñon pine infected with