

## **Wait! Don't cut that conifer down yet!**

We are seeing and hearing about rapid and widespread browning of mainly the 2015 needles on spruce and fir trees across many areas of New York State. Much of this injury may be due to winter desiccation!

Although the browning may appear to be very severe, if buds and shoots are still alive, these trees may put on new growth.



Desiccation symptoms can vary from tree to tree and may depend on exposure to sun, wind, winter temperature fluctuations, and the overall health of the tree when it entered dormancy last fall. If you have a tree like this, you may want to give it another 3-4 weeks and see what it can do. If new growth does not develop, or appears to be insufficient, then the tree can be removed. For now, give these trees a little more time.