

## **Brown Coloration on Junipers**

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I have noticed that it is that time of year, some of the cedar trees have a brown tinge to them? These questions have been coming into the K-State Research and Extension office this week.

Are you wondering why some of your Eastern Red Cedars have a brown tinge to them? This has been a common question every year, about this time. Certain Eastern Red Cedar and various other junipers are showing a brownish cast when viewed from a distance. This may be the male flowers. Male flowers are on the tips of the leaves and look somewhat like a cross between a miniature hand grenade and a pinecone. Shaking the branches on dry days will often result in a cloud of pollen being released.

Most junipers are dioecious, meaning they have both male and female plants. About half the junipers (the males) will have this coloration. The female flowers (or the trees with the blue berries) are much less obvious. If you are a homeowner who is concerned about this brown coloration, check the plants to ensure the male flowers are the cause. If they are, rest assured that this is normal, it will fade with time, and no actions are needed.

For more information on this and other topics, please contact the local K-State Research and Extension Office. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.