**Problem**
The tips of my arborvitae are all turning brown. What is causing it, and what should I do?

**Description (June)**
The arborvitae tips turned brown in the late winter and into the spring, later the tips of the branches fall off, defoliating the plants.

**Questions and Answer**

**Question:** How many plants is the problem affecting?
**Answer:** I have a hedge of about 15 plants.

**Question:** Are all the plants affected?
**Answer:** Yes, some more than others

**Question:** Have you used any herbicides on your property?
**Answer:** No

**Question:** Have you noticed any insects or whitish cocoons in the affected areas?
**Answer:** There are some greenish worm-looking things on all of the plants along with some white cone like structures. I thought they were like pine cones?

**Reference(s)**
http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/cypress_tip_moth.htm / OSU Pacific Northwest Nursery IPM, as of 5/29/08

**Diagnosis**
**Cypress Tip Moth.** The adult cypress tip moth (cypress tip miner) is silver-tan and approximately 0.125 inch long. The larvae are green, about 0.125 inches long and do the damage. The cocoon is a white, somewhat papery structure made in dead or living foliage. The larvae tunnel into the growing points of the 1- and 2-year-old shoot tips causing yellowing, then browning, then twig dieback. Damage typically is limited to the tips of twigs. The exit holes are dark and may resemble symptoms of leaf blight, a fungal disease. Foliage does not discolor in the affected areas until late winter. After this, the brown, dead twigs break off readily.
To be certain, bring us a sample of a few damaged tips.

**Recommendations**
**Cultural:** American arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*) is very susceptible to infection. Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) is very resistant.
**Biological:** None
**Chemical:** Late spring to early summer spray. 1. Acephate, 2. Cyfluthrin, 3. Spinosad A&D