

(revision date:4/30/2013)

## ***Common Cultural: Mosses and lichens***

*Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for successful plant problem management.*

### ***Biology***

Mosses and lichens are primitive plants often found growing on the bark of older trees and shrubs. They are typically grayish, greenish, or orange in color and may be flat or branched. Mosses and lichens are not parasitic and will not harm the trees. They are often associated with shaded or declining trees, but do not cause decline. Regular pruning usually limits development of mosses and lichens.

### ***Management Options***

#### **Non-Chemical Management**

- ~ Plant in sunny locations. Prune to allow more light into the canopy.
- ~ Provide proper plant culture. Vigorous trees are not at any risk from moss and lichen development.
- ~ Remove heavy buildups of mosses and lichens by hand, when practical.

*Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!*

#### **Chemical Management**

***IMPORTANT: Visit Home and Garden Fact Sheets for more information on using pesticides***

Fungicides are not usually recommended.

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*Images*



~ Caption: Lichens on rhododendron branches  
~ Photo by: C.R. Foss



~ Caption: Lichens on rhododendron branches  
~ Photo by: C.R. Foss



~ Caption: Lichens on walnut  
~ Photo by: J.W. Pscheidt