



Note No. 3

Northern Forest Research Centre

Edmonton, Alberta

JACK PINE BUDWORM OUTBREAK IN SASKATCHEWAN COLLAPSES

Major outbreaks in Saskatchewan of jack pine budworm (*Choristoneura pinus pinus*), which have occurred over the past several years in the Nisbet and Torch River provincial forests, collapsed in 1980. The only significant infestation detected in Saskatchewan this year occurred in a 60-ha jack pine plantation north of Senlac. Defoliation there was generally light to moderate, with severe damage occurring only on a relatively few scattered trees.

Moderate to severe defoliation had been predicted for 1980 for at least some parts of the Nisbet and Torch River provincial forests. This prediction was based upon egg counts obtained in 1979, which indicated that a good hatch had occurred. During 1980 field surveys in these areas, however, larvae were very difficult to find. Significant larval mortality apparently had occurred during the post-hatch (overwintering) or early larval stages.

The Nisbet outbreak began in 1976, and at its peak in 1977 moderate to severe defoliation was aeri ally mapped over a total area of approximately 20 400 ha. The total affected area decreased to about 16 600 ha in 1978, and in 1979 only widely scattered, relatively small patches of moderate and severe defoliation were detected. The Torch River outbreak lasted 2 years (1978-79) and involved jack pine ranging over about 4 000 ha.

Only light defoliation is expected in 1981.

G. Still
Forest Insect
and Disease Survey

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