

RAPID ON-LINE ACCESS TO FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT INFORMATION



INTRODUCTION

There is a wealth of scientific knowledge on the control of insects, diseases, and competitive vegetation for forest management. However, much of this knowledge is available only as scientific publications, and is not easily accessible to the public or operational foresters.

A new tool, the Canadian Forest Pest Management (CFPM) Database provides enhanced availability through an interactive database accessible and searchable via the Internet. This innovation is a synthesis of knowledge from a broad range of scientific publications, including research from Natural Resources Canada, the Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service, and the Ontario Forest Research Institute of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

METHODOLOGY

The CFPM database allows easy and rapid access to data and information from 1980 to the present. It will also help in many areas such as:

- Accelerating incorporation of fundamental science into operational best management practices.
- Identifying management options that are well supported by “weight of scientific evidence” and conversely, those that are not.
- Enhancing awareness of environmental issues associated with forest pest management in Canada.
- Identifying data gaps and optimal opportunities for research investments.
- Providing a basis for future artificial intelligence systems.
- Providing direct links to related data and information sources.



Lisa Verkley – CFPM Database Intern

THE DATABASE

The CFPM database is a reference to pertinent scientific literature on application technology, efficacy, crop tolerance, environmental fate, and environmental effects. Search capabilities built into the system will allow users to query the database by any of several different fields or combinations thereof. Geo-referencing of field research studies will allow users to sort and select data and information most pertinent to their region. The database is relevant to those with an interest in chemical, silvicultural, manual, mechanical, and biological control options. Both published literature and unpublished information will be incorporated into the database to ensure that the database is both current and comprehensive. Currently the database is comprised of more than 12,000 scientific records, including abstracts. These records detail studies pertinent to Canadian forest pest management, including efficacy of management techniques, environmental acceptability and cost-benefit analyses.

Unlike commercially available databases, the CFPM database offers topic specificity, superior search functionality, more frequent updating, and the ability to directly accept user submissions.

MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The database is intended to serve a variety of users including researchers, forest managers, environmental groups, and the general public. Operational foresters can use the database as an easy tool to review the current state of scientific information on any management issue pertinent to a given pest, crop species or silvicultural technique. Full utilization of the database should allow for maximum transfer of scientific knowledge into operational practice, which in turn should assure that the most efficacious, environmentally acceptable and cost-effective actions are taken. Particularly in the case of vegetation management, use of the database should translate into maximal productivity and minimal delay in successful regeneration.

SOURCES OF RELEVANT INFORMATION

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