



Timber Talks



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SAVE YOUR LOGS

No. 12

In interior British Columbia trees that are killed or partially killed and logs that are freshly cut are sometimes damaged by larvae of long-horned wood borers tunnelling into the wood. This results in a serious degrading of the product. Early removal of the trees and logs before oviposition, and utilization of the material before larval boring would reduce the loss. Unfortunately, such measures of control are not always practicable and an alternative means is required.

Spraying with an insecticide restricts oviposition by long-horned wood borers in logs of ponderosa pine and prevents larvae already established under the bark from penetrating the wood. A suitable spray is an emulsion of lindane which costs approximately 50 cents a gallon, although commercial grades of the active ingredient are less expensive. One imperial gallon of the emulsion is sufficient to spray 100 square feet of bark surface.

To investigate the efficacy of this insecticide ponderosa pine logs were sprayed to inhibit oviposition on June 21, the day the trees were felled. Other logs were similarly treated on July 23 to prevent wood penetration by larvae.

Although adult insects were present within the area shortly after the earlier treatment, egg niches were not found in any logs given the early treatment. By mid-August logs treated in July had approximately four egg niches per square foot of bark surface and untreated logs seven per square foot. Larval penetration of wood was twelve times greater in untreated logs than in those that were sprayed. All galleries in the untreated logs contained larvae but galleries in treated logs were empty. This implies that the galleries had been excavated by the time of spraying and that the lindane emulsion caused the larvae to withdraw to the bark.