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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY  
**PEST REPORT**

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FIREWEED RUST OF TRUE FIRS IN THE  
PRINCE GEORGE FOREST DISTRICT

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This summer the fireweed rust, Pucciniastrum epilobii Oth. of true firs was found on alpine fir throughout the host range in the Prince George Forest District. The incidence of the disease was generally light, but reached outbreak proportions in a few limited stands of pure young alpine fir. Such stands were found at Eaglet Lake, Old Church Road, Mile 7 on Torpy Road, Wansa Lake Road and Bowron River "Coal Road".

Fireweed rust infects only the current year's foliage of true firs. The first two states of the rust, the pycnial and aecial states, occur during late July and early August, causing yellow discoloration and finally, death of the infected needles.

The affected trees were whitish-yellow during the peak of spore production: the infected needles on the current year's growth changed to red-brown by mid-August. Generally 5 to 10 per cent of the new foliage was lost in the lightly infected stands while up to 50 per cent was lost in the heavily infected stands.

Intensity of the rust reached similar proportions in the District during 1971 but was not quite as extensive as in 1972.