



LIBRARY
PACIFIC FOREST RESEARCH CENTRE
506 WEST BURNSIDE ROAD
VICTORIA, B.C.

Canada
PFRC
Pest rept.
1972
June 26

FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY **PEST REPORT**

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

June 26, 1972

DOUGLAS-FIR TUSSOCK MOTH OUTBREAK IN LOWER FRASER VALLEY

R. O. Wood

An outbreak of Douglas-fir tussock moth, Orgyia pseudotsugata, was reported for the first time in the lower Fraser Valley in 1971. The epidemic was sporadic between Abbotsford and Cloverdale and east to Surrey. In 1971, during the caterpillar feeding period, several mature Douglas-fir trees in many scattered locations, including the town of Clearbrook, suffered severe top defoliation. Some of these trees may suffer "top-kill".

In the fall of 1971, tussock moth egg masses collected in Clearbrook were heavily parasitized and it was hoped that these parasites would significantly reduce the 1972 population. However, samples taken on June 22, on some of the 1971-damaged trees in Clearbrook yielded a moderate to heavy population of small tussock moth larvae. It is now believed that there is a likelihood of a continuation of severe defoliation in 1972 which will further increase the probability of top-kill and possible tree mortality on poor growing sites.