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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY
PEST REPORT

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria
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WINTER INJURY TO TREES ON VANCOUVER ISLAND
AND THE LOWER MAINLAND

R. S. Hunt

Much of the browning and "dying back" of various evergreen trees can be attributed to the 1972-73 winter conditions. Although the weather was not necessarily considered severe, apparently there were sudden cool temperatures and drying winds. These conditions appeared to cause a water deficiency in certain trees resulting in tip death of their branchlets. Many Douglas-fir trees have only last year's foliage killed, showing a scattering of dead tips throughout the tree. Trees more exposed to the wind may even have entire branches killed. Spectacular leaf damage has also been noted on several Arbutus trees. Cedars and grand firs (balsam) have generally sustained less damage.

Native trees are not the only ones affected. Several exotic shrubs and trees throughout residential areas have sustained various amounts of damage. Injury has been noted on cypress, juniper and pine.

Although these symptoms are becoming apparent this spring the condition is not spreading and no extensive tree mortality is expected. On the other hand, weakened trees may be susceptible to attack by other pests. Where feasible, pruning of dead branchlets is recommended.