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# PEST REPORT

Pacific Forestry Centre • 506 West Burnside Road • Victoria, B.C. • V8Z 1M5

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## SATIN MOTH IN THE PRINCE GEORGE FOREST REGION

N. Humphreys  
Forest Insect & Disease Survey

For the first time satin moth, *Leucoma salicis*, has been detected in the Prince George Forest Region. Large moth flights were noted in the Robson Valley from Valemount to McBride in late July.

The large silvery white moths were collected at several locations in the McBride-Valemount area. Egg masses were also collected in aspen stands from Swift Mountain just east of Valemount. The previous most northerly infestation of the satin moth was Avola in the Wells Gray Park area. The major hosts of the satin moth are exotic poplars. Native hosts include trembling aspen, cottonwood and occasionally it is found on willow, oak, and crabapple.

The satin moth is native to Europe and Asia and was accidentally introduced to North America in the early 1900's. The first confirmed sightings were in southwestern British Columbia and New England in 1920. Since then the moth has spread throughout most of southern British Columbia.

It is possible that some of the defoliation of aspen that occurred in the Robson Valley this year caused mainly by the forest tent caterpillar could be attributed to the satin moth. However, assessments in the area during June found no evidence of satin moth larvae within the infestation. This indicates that populations have only recently reached detectable levels.

Elsewhere, aspen, cottonwood and willow were defoliated in parts of the Nelson region, some for the third consecutive year. Tree mortality has reached 45% in previously defoliated stands near Golden.

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