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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY

PEST REPORT

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

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BLACK VINE ROOT WEEVIL DAMAGE ON WESTERN HEMLOCK CONTAINER SEEDLINGS

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Western hemlock seedlings growing in styrofoam containers at the Pacific Forest Research Centre in Victoria, were damaged in March, 1972 by the larvae of black vine root weevils, Brachyrhinus sulcatus. Larvae had eaten bark from the stems just below the soil surface, and from the roots. In some instances complete root systems were stripped of bark, but there was no evidence of foliage injury. At the time of examination larvae were numerous in the soil, mostly around the root collar near the surface. The damaged seedlings were three years old, and had been grown in shade houses under forest nursery conditions.

Of 893 western hemlock seedlings examined, 50% were injured, 42% were healthy and undamaged, and 8% had died from unknown causes. Damaged seedlings exhibited lack of vigour and had a stunted appearance; they would eventually die.

Damage caused by black vine weevils is of two types; root injury by the larvae, and foliage or stem injury by the adults. Foliage injury which is usually limited to some chewed needles was not present since the adults had not begun to emerge at the time of inspection of the seedlings.